Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-155
Thursday
11 August 1994

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FBIS-SOV-94-155 *11 August 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Aug 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Timetable for Troop Withdrawal From Moldova Agreed *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Differences on Withdrawal Schedule Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Aug]* 2
Commandant Alleges Lebed Removal Due to 'Bribe' *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 Aug]* 2
Cuba Envoy Urges Condemnation of U.S. Blockade *[INTERFAX]* 3
U.S. Lifting of Cuban Blockade 'Bilateral' Issue *[INTERFAX]* 3
Energy Minister on Cooperation With U.S. *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Recall of U.S. Consul Attributed to Crime Report *[IZVESTIYA 11 Aug]* 4
Demarcation of Border With Estonia To Start 12 Aug *[INTERFAX]* 4
Moscow Increasing Transit of Kazakh Oil Abroad *[INTERFAX]* 5
Kuwaiti Officers To Train in Russia *[Radio Rossii]* 5
Diplomats Discuss Jiang Zemin's Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Moscow Ready for 'Multifaceted Ties' With Japan *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Mongolian Prime Minister Views Economic Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 6

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Tour Volga River Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kubarev Appointed Deputy Head of Administration *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 Aug]* 7
Official Recommends Postponing Elections to 1997 *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 11 Aug]* 7
Former Commander Varennikov Acquitted of Treason *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Prosecutor's Action Not 'Official Stance' *[KURANTY 11 Aug]* 8

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Calls MMM Crash 'Good Lesson' *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Stock Exchange President on MMM 'Irregularities' *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
MMM Shareholders Plan Further Protest Actions *[SEGODNYA 11 Aug]* 9
Antimonopoly Chief on Consumer Protection Work *[SEGODNYA 11 Aug]* 9
Grain Monopoly Reduces Farms To Barter *[IZVESTIYA 10 Aug]* 9
Finance House Fails To Pay Investors Dividends *[IZVESTIYA 10 Aug]* 10

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Rules Out Use of Force in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Interior Ministry Denies Plans To Invade *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Aide: Russia Not To Intervene in Chechnya *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 11 Aug]* 11
Chechen Congress Deems Council 'Terrorist Group' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
FCS Denies Moscow Backing Council *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Chechen Congress Condemns Avturkhanov, Khasbulatov *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Congress Grants Dudayev Special Powers *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Chechen Congress Urges General Mobilization *[INTERFAX]* 13
Martial Law Expected To Be Introduced 11 Aug *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
'National Revival Government' Pledges To End Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Chechen Interim Council Issues Appeal to Nation *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Chechen Opposition Determined To Hold Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Mamodayev Ready To Discuss National Reconciliation *[INTERFAX]* 14

Khasbulatov in Chechnya on 'Peace Mission' *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Chechnya Again Denies Khasbulatov Citizenship *[INTERFAX]* 15
Dudayev Seen Clinging To Power Without Support *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Aug]* 15
Stavropol Official Denies 'Terror' Against Chechens *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Khasbulatov, Avturkhanov Comment on Opposition *[Moscow TV]* 16
Provisional Leader on Ossetian-Ingushetia Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Yeltsin's Visit to Volga, Don Previewed *[INTERFAX]* 17

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kazakh President Arrives in Kiev for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Talks To Focus on Economic Ties *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 Aug]* 18
Kuchma, Nazarbayev Meet Behind Closed Doors *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Accord Signed; Kuchma, Nazarbayev Comment *[Kiev Radio]* 19
Moldovan Prime Minister Arrives for One-Day Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
U.S. Disarmament Mission Stresses Non-Proliferation *[Kiev Radio]* 19
Kuchma, Soros Reportedly Discuss Aid *[Kiev TV]* 19
Navy Urges Understanding With Russian Sailors *[INTERFAX]* 19

National Affairs

Deputy Premier for Humanitarian Affairs Appointed *[INTERFAX]* 20
Deputy Chief of Security Service Appointed *[INTERFAX]* 20
Kuchma Meets With Law Enforcement Officials *[UNIAR]* 20
Stresses Observing Law in Fighting Crime *[UNIAR]* 20
Crimea Appeals to Kuchma for Crime Aid *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 5 Aug]* 20
Crimean Interior Minister Rejects 'Dual Subordination' *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 6 Aug]* 21
Crimean Party Halts Activity After Members' Assassinations *[INTERFAX]* 21
Deputy Begrudges Disarmament 'Aid Game' *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 6 Aug]* 21
Closure of Antiaircraft Schools Criticized *[UNIAN]* 22
Army Short of Educated Senior Commanders *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 5 Aug]* 22
Efforts To Develop New Weapons Noted *[Kiev International]* 23
Ecological Damage by Black Sea Fleet Viewed *[UKRAYINA MOLODA 5 Aug]* 23
Growth in Private Sector Noted *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 9 Aug]* 24
Donbass Entrepreneur Hopeful About Future *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 10 Aug]* 25

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Lukashenka Praises Yeltsin Meeting Results *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Aide Welcomes Outcome of Moscow Talks *[TRUD 10 Aug]* 27
Moldova's Prime Minister Arrives for Working Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Lukashenka Hails Talks With Moldova *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Lukashenka, Nazarbayev Discuss Integration *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Lukashenka Discloses Financial Statements to Press *[Minsk Radio]* 28
Lukashenka Suggests Repeal of Generals' Promotions *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Aug]* 28
Sinitsyn on Formation of Presidential Administration *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 6 Aug]* 29
CP Leader Advocates Unity With Russia *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 9 Aug]* 30
Nationalist Party Leader Presents Platform *[CHYRVONAYA ZMENA 4 Aug]* 31
Germans Monitor Military Hardware Destruction *[BELAPAN]* 32

Moldova

Accord on 14th Army Withdrawal 'Finalized' *[Bucharest Radio]* 32
14th Army To Become 'Peacekeeping' Force *[BASAPRESS]* 32
Tiraspol Commander Confirms Lebed's Dismissal *[BASAPRESS]* 32
Dniester Industrial Production in Decline *[BASAPRESS]* 33
Deputy Minister on Dniester Currency Issue *[INTERFAX]* 33
Agrarians' Chief D. Mocpan Interviewed *[IZVESTIYA 9 Aug]* 33

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Turkey To Train 20-25 'Experts' for Kazakh Military *[INTERFAX]* 35

Tajikistan

Supreme Council Statement on Inter-Tajik Talks *[Dushanbe Radio]* 35
Minister: Government Has Means To Control Situation *[Moscow TV]* 35
Election Bodies To Gather Candidate Signatures *[INTERFAX]* 36
Russian Border Guard Headquarters Shelled *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

Turkmenistan

Velayati Visits Turkmenistan, Meets Niyazov *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Decree Clarifies Use of Niyazov's 'Turkmenbashi' Title
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 11 Aug] 37

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Iran's Velayati Discuss Ties, Regional Peace *[Tehran IRNA]* 37
Velayati Meets Leaders, Departs *[Tashkent Radio]* 37

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Statement Issued on Ter-Petrosyan-Clinton Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Karabakh Official on Status of Shusha, Lachin *[SNARK]* 38
Opposition Rallies Part of 'Normal Political Process' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 10 Aug]* 38

Georgia

Talks Continue on Peacekeeping Operations in Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 39
Abkhazia Says Georgia Keeping Troops in Kodor Gorge *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Agenda for Emergency Parliament Session Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 39
Sigua, Kitovani Call For Shevardnadze's Resignation *[Tbilisi Radio]* 40
Former Premier, Defense Minister View Situation *[Tbilisi Radio]* 40

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Commissioner Appointed for Paldiski Nuclear Base *[ETA]* 41
Exercises To Check Readiness for Dismantling Reactors *[INTERFAX]* 41
Defense Forces To Control Training Center *[ETA]* 41
Joint Statement Signed With Kazakhstan *[PRAVDA 10 Aug]* 42
Border Disputes Hamper Talks With Russian Local Officials *[BNS]* 42

Latvia

LNNK Approves New Government Composition *[BNS]* 43
WEU Official on Membership in European Security System *[BNS]* 43

Lithuania

Brazauskas, Nazarbayev Urge Creation of Eurasian Union *[INTERFAX]* 44
Nuclear Power Station's Unit Back in Operation *[Vilnius Radio]* 44

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Aug

LD1108053994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0525 GMT 11 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 11 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his week-long riverboat trip down the Volga wants to talk to common voters in an informal atmosphere. He will not be accompanied by the regular retinue, the IZVESTIYA daily reports. The newspaper stresses that the president's trip is not a vacation cruise. He intends to look into the progress of economic reforms in the cities which he is scheduled to meet, to visit a number of enterprises and meet representatives of the local business communities.

Many Russian newspapers highlight the latest developments around Chechnya. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) writes that Dzhokhar Dudayev ignores, as a rule, all appeals from the opposition and prefers to appeal to Russia and sometimes to the world community, while stepping up demonstratively the republic's mobilisation potential. Groznyy threatens Russia with active terror. While declaring the possibility of stepping down, Dudayev is ready to "do anything in order to preserve his grasp on power and is not averse to putting together an alliance of different nationalist forces in the northern Caucasus". In this way, the newspaper says, he is assuming full responsibility for the further development of the situation in Chechnya.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on the presence in Chechnya of the former speaker of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, Ruslan Khasbulatov. It highlights Khasbulatov's appeal to Dudayev to resign as president of his own free will and call new elections in the Chechen republic. The results of such elections, according to the newspaper, are likely to be in Khasbulatov's favour. The ex-parliament chairman of Russia will then be able to represent Chechnya in the upper chamber of the Russian federal legislature.

PRAVDA reports on its front page about Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's decision to let the mass media publish his own declaration of income. This move, the newspaper says, is "a good example for Russian politicians". It would be good to see the presidents and top officials of other commonwealth countries make public their income declarations. This would help clear up the rumours about "some of them, particularly among the Russian leadership, to have become owners of huge wealth, super-millionaires and billionaires thanks to the market environment created by themselves and thanks to the mass impoverishment of the people and the destruction of the national economy".

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY) devotes much space to "passions according to MMM". The newspaper says that a few months ago some prominent representatives of the Russian opposition predicted in private conversations, just what was going to happen.

"In order to provoke the people to begin mass-scale anti-government action, they said, the best way is to stage manage a forcible bankruptcy of a major company with millions of shareholders". The newspaper notes that the Central Bank of Russia and its leader Viktor Gerashchenko have been auspiciously silent, even though the Central Bank is obliged to control the movement of the entire money mass in the country and take measures to regulate it. With his silence about the MMM scandal the Central Bank governor, according to the newspaper, actually directed the strike towards the government, which had to speak out. Because of this "the anger of the MMM shareholders was aimed not at Gerashchenko but at the government and Premier Chernomyrdin in person". Recalling that the head of the cabinet is fully backed by the president, the newspaper states: "With the parliamentary and presidential elections just two years away, actions of this kind on the part of the Central Bank governor suggest interesting conclusions..."

The NEW DAILY in its column "The Main World Event" reports that Bosnian Serbs have begun to receive communion en masse, which, judging from historical precedents, "can mean only one thing—the Bosnian Serbs are out for a decisive battle and ready to fight to the last man". In any case, their leaders do not intend to give up the idea of holding a referendum on the contact group peace plan scheduled for August 27 and 28. The outcome of the referendum is easy to predict—not to sign the demarcation map for Bosnia in any case.

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Timetable for Troop Withdrawal From Moldova Agreed

LD1008170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1541 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Excerpts] Kishinev [Chisinau], 10 Aug—The 14th Russian Army will leave Moldavia's [Moldova] Dniester region three years after the agreement on the legal status, procedures, and terms for [word indistinct] Russian armed formations on the republic's territory comes into force. The text of this document was finally agreed during the 10th round of Moldavian-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the 14th Army, which ended in Kishinev today. It will be signed after consideration by the two countries' governments. [passage omitted]

At the final news conference, the leaders of the Moldavian and Russian delegations stressed that the agreement that they had endorsed envisaged synchronizing the withdrawal of the Russian formations from Moldavia with the settlement of the Dniester region conflict. The three-year term for the withdrawal of the Russian troops is based on technical grounds and the time needed to provide facilities for the troops in their new locations.

The delegations also endorsed the texts of agreements on the transportation of Russian troops and military cargoes, servicemen's pensions to guarantee social protection, and pensions for reserve servicemen living in Russia and Moldavia.

Differences on Withdrawal Schedule Noted

MM1108095594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "Moscow and Kishinev Agree on Russian Troop Withdrawal. But Without Considering Dniester Region's Opinion"]

[Text] The 10th round of talks on the problems of the Russian troop withdrawal is continuing in the Moldavian [Moldovan] capital.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister Nicolae Osmochescu, head of the Moldavian delegation, the Moldavian delegation intends to reach final agreement on the procedure and schedule for the army withdrawal across the territory of neighboring Ukraine. At the previous round of talks Kishinev [Chisinau] proposed withdrawing the army over the next 18 months. The Russian delegation, headed by Special Envoy Vladimir Kitayev, insisted on a three-year schedule. The delegation invited to attend the talks from the Dniester Region, on whose territory the Russian troops are deployed, believes that the army should not be withdrawn until the Dniester problem is settled—but it seems as though this view has gone unheeded. In response the Dniester delegation staged a walkout.

Nonetheless, Ion Mastac, press secretary at the Moldavian Defense Ministry, is convinced that the delegations will reach a compromise at this round. He added that the administrative reorganization begun recently within the 14th Army and the eloquent rumors in the press about the possible removal of Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed from command of the army are unlikely to have any impact on the progress of the talks.

Incidentally, regarding the 14th Army commander, he has been backed by a meeting of the army's administrative officers. "In the prevailing situation the presence of our commander, Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, in the army is absolutely vital, and the forthcoming army reorganization should only be carried out under his leadership," the statement sent to the Russian Defense Ministry leadership says. The statement notes that Lt. Gen. Lebed enjoys unswerving prestige and respect among his men, their families, and the overwhelming majority of the region's inhabitants. His removal would cause concern and negative sentiments in the officers' corps, the statement says.

Commandant Alleges Lebed Removal Due to 'Bribe'

MK1108085594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Tiraspol Commandant Mikhail Bergman by Ilya Bulavinov; place and date not given: "Interview With Tiraspol Commandant. The Main Proof Will Be Presented on Friday"]

[Text] The future of the 14th Army was the main subject of the Russia-Moldova talks which ended yesterday. The Russian military and the Dniester authorities paid special attention to the future of its commander, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed. Tiraspol Military Commandant Mikhail Bergman, who has charged Moscow with accepting a bribe for dismissing Lebed, tried to support his charges in an exclusive interview to KOMMERSANT-DAILY.

According to Bergman, the first to mention Lebed's dismissal as having been sealed was Dniester Republic President Igor Smirnov after his latest trip to Moscow. Several days later, a couple of men from Smirnov's close entourage came to the commandant's office to report that Smirnov had informed them about a successful deal struck in Moscow. Soon the commandant's office had a visit from Vladimir Limanskiy, deputy chairman of Slabodziyskiy Rayon executive committee, to demand that "the fuss be laid to rest" because Lebed, he maintained, was not going to come back after all. Limanskiy once again quoted the sum paid for removing Lebed—$500.000.

The military taped Limanskiy using a concealed camera, and they intend to air the tape on local television Friday. The same day, Bergman intends to make public documents proving that members of the Kiev, Lvov, and

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Moscow criminal groups who have arrived in Tiraspol are going to start buying up weapons with the help of the Dniester authorities and servicemen of the 14th Army. If this does not happen, the commandant does not rule out raids on the depots. For this reason, they are now under tightened security, and armored vehicles have been assigned for this purpose.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the military men are under constant surveillance. Bergman contends that Vadim Shevtsov, security minister of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, handed over to representatives of the weapons buyers his own motor vehicle fitted out with all types of communications equipment. This makes it possible to keep track of the military's actions and movements. Bergman believes that with Lebed's departure, control over the situation may be totally lost, and the Russians "will have to retreat into the woods."

Colonel Bergman thinks that Lebed's removal is most probably happening behind Boris Yeltsin's back because the latter "would not do that." According to the commandant, the commander [Lebed] explicitly backed the president in October 1993, and Yeltsin even offered him the position of defense minister.

In the meantime, Tiraspol awaits the arrival of Aleksandr Lebed who, according to Bergman's information, is returning on Friday. Judging from the fact that the indignant crowd, according to Bergman, did not let Lieutenant General Eduard Vorobyev, who arrived in Tiraspol this week, through to the Army headquarters, the military no longer trust anybody but Lebed. The way things develop will depend on how the Army commander acts because, as Mikhail Bergman put it, the 14th Army officers would support him through thick and thin.

Cuba Envoy Urges Condemnation of U.S. Blockade

LD1008163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] Cuba's Charge d'Affaires in Russia, Julio Harmendia, has deplored the lack of coincidence in Moscow's and Havana's attitudes to the issue of lifting the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed on the "Freedom Island" by the USA.

Cuba expects that at the future debates on this problem at the U.N. general Assembly Moscow will join the countries which condemned Washington for its unlawful measures, the Cuban diplomat told a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

Last month, he said, a group of Russian intellectuals sent to the U.N. secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, a letter with the request to exert in the framework of the U.N. efforts aimed at lifting the blockade against Cuba.

Cuba and Russia maintain normal relations in the economic, trade, cultural and other areas, the diplomat said. Moscow and Havana work in the direction of coordinating their stands on different problems, he pointed out.

In comments on the disturbances that took place in Havana on August 5, as a result of which one policeman died and 35 people were injured, Harmendia stressed that they were part of the subversive campaign waged against Cuba by the USA and the Central Intelligence Agency, which seek an excuse for an armed incursion.

According to the diplomat, the tragic events were closely connected with Washington's hypocritical migration policy toward Cuba. Cuba makes no obstacles for those who wish to move to the USA. All obstructions are made by the U.S. administration," Harmendia said.

In contravention of bilateral agreement Washington issues the minimal number of entry visas for the Cubans who wish to emigrate to the USA legally, he explained.

In the meantime the Cubans who hijack ships and put the lives of innocent people in jeopardy are welcomed in the USA as heroes, the diplomat pointed out. All this happens against the background of tougher restrictions on the entry of emigrants from Mexico, Haiti, China and other countries.

Harmendia confirmed Cuba's willingness to discuss all the disputes with the USA at the negotiating table. At the same time he warned that if the U.S. government fails to take steps to avoid a repetition of such incidents, the Cuban leadership will have to lift restrictions on the navigation of ships that carry Cuban emigrants to the USA.

In answer to a question from Interfax the diplomat explained that such steps should include Washington's adherence to its commitment stated in a bilateral agreement to grant annually 20 thousand visas for the Cubans wishing to leave for the USA. Besides, Havana wants the U.S. authorities to return the hijacked ships and extradite the hijackers.

People condemned for hijacking planes to Cuba from the USA still serve their sentences in Cuban jails, Harmendia noted.

U.S. Lifting of Cuban Blockade 'Bilateral' Issue

LD1008173094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] Moscow believes that the lifting of the economic, trade and financial blockade of Cuba by the United

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States is in the sphere of bilateral relations between the two countries, Vladimir Tyurdenev, director of the Central and South American Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Interfax.

He explained that this was the reason why Russia had abstained in the voting on a resolution calling for cessation of the blockade in the 47th and 48th sessions of the UN General Assembly.

Tyurdenev emphasized that Russia is working hard for creating an international climate favorable for a dialog between Cuba and the United States.

He criticized, however, the Toricelli Act, passed by the U.S. congress nearly two years ago, tightening the blockade. Tyurdenev said that the act reflects Washington's desire to extend its national jurisdiction beyond the U.S. borders and that Russia objected to this on both legal and political grounds. He emphasized that Russian diplomats had been telling so their Cuban and U.S. colleagues. [sentence as received]

Tyurdenev said that Russia's leaders would decide whether Russia will vote differently at the 49th UN General Assembly session on the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

Energy Minister on Cooperation With U.S.

LD1008154594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Each sector of the Russian economy tries to solve the problem of cash flow in its own way. Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhaylov tells how this is done in the atomic energy industry:

[Mikhaylov] We are now trying to reach the buyer's market in atomic energy through the regional grids, the so-called joint-stock Energo companies. Throughout the regions we will now have 37 such contracts at our nine atomic stations. In the budgetary allocations section there is the field of nuclear armaments complex. This should be fully financed by the state. All the rest I now hope will receive export orders not only of conventional output—uranium, concentration services, transuranic elements, our fertilizers, instrument manufacture products—not only these but also high-tech products. I think we shall develop this road and some time in 1995 I think we shall finance ourselves about 70 percent by means of such exports, mutual cooperation, establishment of joint enterprises, and major companies.

In addition I think there are already proposals from our Russian investors, banks, which are ready to invest in our industry. [passage omitted] We have excellent proposals from, for example, General Atomic of the United States to set up a joint company there with Russian enterprises and we are now setting it up to develop a reactor of the 21st century. I think this is very important and I think there will be standardized atomic power engineering throughout the world.

Recall of U.S. Consul Attributed to Crime Report

MM1108123194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 8

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "U.S. Consul General Leaves Petersburg After Goodwill Games"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—U.S. Consul General Jack Gosnell [surname as transliterated] assembled Petersburg journalists at his consular residence—for a farewell meeting, it turned out.

It can rarely be written of a diplomat of such rank that he is not only respected but also genuinely liked in Petersburg—for his open, sociable character and his lack of excessive self-assurance and posturing. In the three years he has spent in Petersburg Gosnell has made a thorough study of the city's social and economic problems, its science and culture, and the mores of the north Russian capital's inhabitants. Hardly anybody can now dispute that Jack Gosnell has done much to develop Russian-U.S. cooperation in various spheres.

Then comes Gosnell's unexpected recall to Washington—the interruption of his seemingly extremely promising diplomatic mission in Petersburg. The reason, it emerged, was the consul general's report to the U.S. Government on the current crime situation in Petersburg. In it, according to Gosnell himself, he tried to depict plainly and openly the situation he was seeing with his own eyes. But by all accounts the diplomat's revelations did not please either Russian Government circles or U.S. upper echelons. The paradox is that in the last six to eight weeks the crime situation on the banks of the Neva has noticeably improved, so the consul general's report struck a discordant note on the eve of the Goodwill Games. Gosnell was not forgiven for that.

It has been learned that John Evans, the new U.S. consul general in Petersburg, will be coming from Moscow.

Demarcation of Border With Estonia To Start 12 Aug

LD1008191894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Russia will unilaterally start to demarcate its border with Estonia on August 12, Major-General Aleksey Kozhevnikov, deputy commander of the Russian border guard, told Interfax.

Estonia does not recognize its present border with Russia, laying claim to some 2,000 square kilometers of territory which belonged to Estonia under the Russian-Estonian peace treaty of 1920 but was annexed to Russia in 1944-45.

Kozhevnikov said the demarcation, ordered by President Boris Yeltsin on June 18, would be carried out by special teams under the supervision of a commission

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accountable to Russia's delegation to official negotiations with Estonia. They would be guarded by Russian border guards, the general said.

"We hope the Estonian side appreciates the need for such work. It is in the interests of both states," he said.

Moscow Increasing Transit of Kazakh Oil Abroad

LD1008154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Russia is increasing the transit of Kazakh oil to foreign countries, a source in the Ministry of Fuel and Energy's Central Control Department told the Petroleum Information Agency.

The source said that Kazakh oil exports did not exceed 200,000-250,000 tonnes a month in the second quarter, but are now closer to the 500,000 tonne mark.

Experts said Kazakh oil exports were increased due to Almaty's insistent requests and because of the financial situation at Kazakh oil enterprises which depend entirely on oil exports.

A Russian-Kazakh agreement provides that Russia will transport 6 million tonnes of Kazakh oil through its territory, 2.5 million of which will go to consumers in the CIS and 3.5 million will be exported to foreign countries.

Kazakhstan exported 2.6 million tonnes of oil through Russia in the first half, including 584,000 tonnes for the CIS and 2.08 million tonnes for foreign nations.

Commenting on the growing Kazakh oil exports, the source said that despite the situation, oil transit through Russia will not exceed 6 million tonnes this year. Russia will not transport Kazakh oil if this will hurt its own oil producers, he said. He noted, however, that the possibility of increasing the transit of Kazakh oil depended on world oil prices and on Russian-Kazakh relations as a whole.

Kuwaiti Officers To Train in Russia

LD1008174894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Officers from Kuwait will be trained in Russia, the emirates' defense minister has announced, according to ITAR-TASS. They will undergo special training to master Russian weapons that are being bought under two contracts signed in the Kuwaiti capital a few days ago.

The minister also said that a Kuwaiti military delegation was currently in Moscow to study the possibility of purchasing different types of Russian weapons required to reequip the country's army. In his words, the contracts' total amount is several hundred million dollars. Among other things, Russia will supply to Kuwait the latest missiles and infantry personnel vehicles.

Diplomats Discuss Jiang Zemin's Visit

LD1108095094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Russian and Chinese diplomats have agreed on the main parameter of Chairman Jiang Zemin's forthcoming official visit to the Russian Federation from September 2-6, according to a ranking Foreign Ministry official.

The Russian Foreign Ministry official told ITAR-TASS about the visit to Moscow of the advance group of Chinese representatives who worked with Russian colleagues on specific questions of preparation of the second Russian-Chinese summit. The first one was held in December 1992, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin paid an official visit to China.

During his September visit to Russia, Jiang Zemin will meet Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, as well as the chiefs of the two chambers of the Russian federal legislature.

The Chinese leader is also expected to make an important speech at the Moscow Institute of International Relations, hold a press conference and tour the country. The itinerary of the tour has yet to be specified.

After his visit to Russia, the Chinese chairman will travel to Ukraine and later to France.

The leaders of Russia and China are expected to sign a package of agreements, including on mutual non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles, on the western part of the Russian-Chinese border, a final statement and some other documents designed to expand Russian-Chinese interaction in various spheres.

Moscow Ready for 'Multifaceted Ties' With Japan

LD1008152894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—"Russia is ready to and will develop multifaceted ties with the coalition government headed by Tomichi Murayama," Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Panov said there are several objective and subjective reasons that may explain why the mass media have got the impression that Russian-Japanese relations have cooled off.

He admitted that there is "certain political passivity in Japan's attitude towards Russia." There have been often changes of the prime ministers and foreign ministers in Japan lately and the "instability of the political situation in Japan obviously affects bilateral relations."

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"This year we feel that economic relations are developing rather successfully, although the political dialogue is slowing down," he added.

Panov attributed this to the fact that Japan still considers the political situation in Russia as unstable. As a result, Russia's calls for intensifying the political dialogue has received little support in Japan so far.

He recalled that Japan has invited Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to visit Japan, but has not begun preparations for the visit yet. The military-to-military contacts remain also very passive, despite Russia's suggestion that the defence ministers of the two countries should exchange visits.

Speaking about the Russian-Japanese top-level contacts, Panov said that "an agreement has been reached to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York City in September during a session of the U.N. General Assembly."

Panov expressed the hope that "the meeting will help step up the political dialogue between the two countries."

Mongolian Prime Minister Views Economic Cooperation

LD1008140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Ulan Bator August 10 TASS—"Our economy, especially our industry, are closely linked with corresponding sectors of the Russian economy because they were created with Russia's help and their products are intended for the Russian market," Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsagiyn Jasray told Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov, who is currently on a visit here.

"Due to different reasons, our bilateral commercial, economic and other relations have grown stagnant during the past few years," the Mongolian premier said. "We want to restore our interaction in the light of the new realities, and we have tremendous reserves to ensure the success of this effort." Jasray noted, in particular, the effectiveness of such a form of cooperation as joint enterprises and economic associations such as the "Erdenet" and "Mongolrostsvetmet" complexes. "There are many valuable aspects to the Mongolian-Russian relations and it is very important to take them into account and to develop them on a new basis in drawing up new up-to-date documents," the premier stressed. He drew special attention to the fact that broader scope and genuine freedom were given to mutual trade between the two neighbouring countries in the new conditions. "We should like primarily to jointly discuss and improve the taxation system in import and export trade," he added.

Describing the process of Mongolian renovation, Jasray said: "Mongolia has adopted a constitution of a parliamentary state and a parliamentary form of government. Its multi-party system has become a solid political reality. The economy is reverting to market principles, not without difficulties, of course. A tendency towards its stabilisation has appeared."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov stressed that "Russia attaches exceptional importance to its relations with Mongolia, a traditionally friendly country and its age-old partner. The vacuum in bilateral relations, which has appeared of late, has vividly brought to light the need for the two countries to promote interaction on the basis of new principles—equality and mutual benefit. Russia and Mongolia are living through a historical process of reforms and there is much we could learn from each other."

A protocol on cooperation between the foreign ministries of Russia and Mongolia was signed here on the same day, as well as an inter-government agreement regulating the work of border check-points and communication across the Mongolian-Russian state border.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin To Tour Volga River Region

LD1108043194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is due to leave Moscow for a scheduled working trip down the River Volga, the Volga-Don Canal and the River Don on Friday.

The trip is tentatively scheduled to last a week. Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS that in the evenings he will take time to relax "just as any common Russian", combining pleasure with presidential business.

President Boris Yeltsin, who will be accompanied by his wife, is scheduled to visit Nizhniy Novgorod, Togliatti and Rostov-on-Don.

The president is expected to visit the Nizhniy Novgorod fair where he will hold a conversation with the region's leaders. It is not ruled out that Boris Yeltsin and Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov will play a game of tennis.

President Boris Yeltsin is then expected to make a stopover not far from Kazan for a meeting with the leadership of Tatarstan.

The president will also look into problems facing the giant car manufacturer in Togliatti and agricultural machinery maker Rosselmash in Rostov-on-Don.

Kubarev Appointed Deputy Head of Administration

MK1108072094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Grigoriy Zaychenko: "New Appointment at Presidential Administration. Sovereign's Watchdog Gets a Deputy Chief"]

[Text] Yesterday it was officially announced that Eduard Kubarev, a Chuvash statesman who headed the republic's Supreme Soviet from 1991 to 1993, has been appointed deputy chief of the Russian President's Control Administration.

Kubarev's appointment is notable in many respects. A May presidential edict considerably elevated the Control Administration's status by transforming it from a branch of the presidential staff into a body directly subordinated to the president. It is still unclear what new functions it acquired as a result. The uncertainty has been compounded by the fact that no new administration chief has been appointed after Aleksey Ilyushenko left for the post of acting general prosecutor. The administration's acting chief is Vladimir Zaytsev.

Meanwhile, the Control Administration is considered one of the most productive services within the system of presidential agencies. The appointment of a fairly experienced politician—the former Chuvash parliament chief is such without doubt—in the general context of increasing the administration's powers points both to expectations pinned on presidential controllers and, indirectly, to the role of Sergey Filatov, who maintains close ties with the provincial nomenklatura.

Official Recommends Postponing Elections to 1997

MK1108073094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Tamara Zamyatina, ITAR-TASS observer, specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Lobbying for Postponing Elections Will Be More Powerful Than the Counteraction, President's Council Member Sergey Karaganov Believes"]

[Text] "Moving the date of elections for the Russian Federation Federal Assembly back from 1996 to 1998 has its advantages. The point is that neither Russia's population nor its political elite today have a clear idea of their own interests, and there are no crystallized structures that could express these interests. In this situation, the holding of any elections is extremely unpredictable. Because society would become hostage to a very big number of chances." This position was expressed by Sergey Karaganov, member of the Presidential Council and deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Europe, in an interview with your ITAR-TASS observer.

The doctor of historical sciences implies by "unpredictability" and "chances" the possible coming to power of people from the "old set." Such a turn of events, he thinks, may be predetermined by the "television factor," as was the case with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's election campaign.

Asked whether the tremendous influence of television on election outcomes is specific to Russia, the specialist in the countries of Europe replied that there [in Europe] "the appearance of candidates no one knows seeking seats in organs of power is virtually impossible because all the aspirants undergo a long running-in in parties, and there are powerful interests behind them."

Here, there are corporate interests affecting not only parliament deputies and members of presidential structures. The same interests, Sergey Karaganov believes, also bring together both the administrators in the regions and a huge number of people who "have become intertwined with power." Therefore, the Presidential Council member thinks, "the coalition for postponing the elections will be very strong."

However, this circumstance does not disturb the political scientist. He repeated the widely held argument that "if the Russian parliament's term of office should be

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extended, the deputies would think more about law-making rather than gearing up for an election campaign."

The scientist cited among the disadvantages of delaying the elections "the sapping of society's faith in democratic procedures and in the powers that be in general." Besides, the expert thinks, the current establishment has lost the capacity to carry though a viable policy. To leave it in power for an indefinite time would mean condemning the country to worsening corruption which would inevitably result in stagnation of society as a whole. Stagnation could be even worse than it was 10 years ago.

As a member of the Presidential Council, Sergey Karaganov said that if Boris Yeltsin should ask what he thinks, he would suggest that the elections be put off from 1996 until the following year, "but with a firm commitment from all the structures to go to elections precisely at that time." He forecasts that such a compromise would enable a change of parliament in conditions of possible stabilization rather than of the present crisis. In the meantime, serious political forces and leaders may "mature" who would be able to "take over the initiative" for continuing reform.

Sergey Karaganov gave yet another weighty argument for postponing the elections for one year rather than for a longer time: "Postponing the elections for two or three years (this is a giant chunk of time for our country, as experience shows) could result in a situation where elections will not take place in Russia at all in the 20th century, and there would be no way out of such a situation except a coup or a putsch."

Former Commander Varennikov Acquitted of Treason

LD1108084194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0655 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—The military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court today acquitted Army General Valentin Varennikov, former commander of the USSR Ground Troops. He stood accused of treason in the form of a conspiracy to seize power. Varennikov is the only participator of the events of August 1991 who turned down the amnesty of the State Duma and demanded that the trial in the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency be brought to a conclusion.

Prosecutor's Action Not 'Official Stance'

MK1108080094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Is State Prosecutor a Private Person?"]

[Excerpt] The proposal by Arkadiy Danilov, state prosecutor at the trial of former USSR Deputy Defense Minister Valentin Varennikov, that the defendant be acquitted should not be seen as the official stance of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office. INTERFAX was told at the General Prosecutor's Office that under the Criminal Procedural Code he is a procedurally independent person who presents to the court his own views on the application of criminal laws and the degree of punishment for the defendant. [passage omitted]

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Calls MMM Crash 'Good Lesson'

LD1108124994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1243 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—According to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the scandal which has erupted after the crash of the "MMM" investment fund is a "good lesson for our people".

Responding to journalists questions before leaving on a steamboat trip along the Volga river, Yeltsin noted that Russians should understand that "one must be very careful with super-adventuristic promises like 1000 percent profit, since no one in the world gives such profits".

Yeltsin announced that the "government does not have anything to do" with the deception of citizens by conscience-less companies. The government can offer "no guarantees for the people or intervention in such situations. That is a matter for the judiciary".

Stock Exchange President on MMM 'Irregularities'

LD1008151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—Igor Suvorov, president of the Russian stock exchange, suggested that the irregularities committed by Russia's best-known investment fund MMM had been caused by either some officials' negligence or their involvement in this fraud.

High-qualified professionals would have easily given the right assessment to MMM's package of emissions, Suvorov told a TASS TV programme, Business in Russia. He described such intertness as "a crime on part of public officials".

On behalf of the Russian stock exchange, its president once more called upon large-scale commercial structures holding MMM shares, as well as private investors to set up "an appropriate public body" to settle this issue. He offered mediation of his stock exchange at the first stage.

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Suvorov stressed the need for convening, as soon as possible, an extraordinary general meeting of MMM shareholders. Participants in the meeting should hear a report by the company's managers, request for "immediate information on the use of funds attracted in large amounts and to determine what to do further with the joint-stock company", the stock exchange president emphasised. The main goal of this action is to prevent people from being disappointed with investment processes in the country on the whole, according to him.

Suvorov suggested creating in Russia a self-regulating mechanism on the securities market, similar to that in the West. However, he warned against introducing the American or German pattern of such a market. We have our own way to go, the president said.

MMM Shareholders Plan Further Protest Actions

MK1108103594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Partners" rubric: "MMM Investors Plan a Series of Actions. Mr. Mavrodi's Charges Intend To Unite With All Russia's 'Deceived People'"]

[Text] Representatives of the leadership of the MMM Joint-Stock Company Shareholders Union told journalists yesterday about the immediate plans of the new public organization brought into existence through the joint efforts of Mr. Mavrodi and state structures. The "cheated" shareholders have planned for the coming days a number of rallies, picketing, and hunger strikes and a march between 11 and 12 August. As for the above actions' venues, the list of locations preferred by the shareholders include buildings housing the state structures that "had a hand" in MMM's downfall: 38 Petrovka Street; the White House; the Russian Federation Finance Ministry, among others.

Participants in the direct actions intend to press for Sergey Mavrodi's release, "restoration of the normal functioning of MMM," creation of a system of preferential taxes for Mr. Mavrodi's firm "for the period of getting out of the crisis," and "an immediate indemnity for moral and material damages to MMM and the investors." Apart from that, according to one of the Shareholders Union leaders, Vladimir Stolypin, the new organization intends to establish contacts with other associations of "cheated" citizens, and with all political forces wishing to enter into talks with the Shareholders Union. Mr. Stolypin has pointed out that the MMM supporters include "representatives of virtually all political movements."

However, whereas defining the MMM Shareholders Union's place in the Russian political spectrum will form a subject to be threshed out by politicians and experts, the shareholders' street-bound plans are already causing a headache to Moscow's law and order bodies. According to Aleksey Astakhov of the Internal Affairs Main Administration, the question of the Shareholders Union's holding direct actions is being considered by the Moscow government; however, he has stated, "the meetings and picketing will hardly be held where MMM shareholders want them to."

Antimonopoly Chief on Consumer Protection Work

MK1108075094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Kolokoltseva under the "Pioneers" rubric: "Leonid Bochin: Russians Allergic to Imported Goods. Antimonopoly Committee Sums Up Results of Consumer Rights Protection"]

[Text] Antimonopoly Committee Chairman Leonid Bochin summed up in yesterday's press conference the results of the committee's two years of activities to protect the rights of Russian consumers. The press conference was timed for the unveiling of the first state report "Protection of Consumer Rights in the Russian Federation." As Mr. Bochin put it, "this report is the initial experience, to be followed up by studies in the area of support for small businesses and the shaping of market services, including financial services."

The operation of state-run structures and voluntary public organizations, the committee officials think, "has made it possible in our hard times of transition" to score a degree of success: By 1993 more than 230 public associations had appeared, and "more than 16,000 complaints were looked into," with one in seven complaints taken to court as a consumer rights violation case. At the same time Mr. Bochin was worried that "the Russian market has become swamped with poor-quality imported goods" a considerable proportion of which are fakes, with the result that the Russian consumer "becomes allergic."

The committee head noted that legislation protecting consumer rights is a "comparatively new" thing in Russia. The first "pioneering" law, Leonid Bochin said, was passed by the Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet in 1991 with a similar law having been passed by the Russian Supreme Soviet, and it was only recently that the Presidium of the Russian Federation Government approved amendments to it which, the committee head thought, would benefit the Antimonopoly Committee's efforts in protecting consumer rights.

Grain Monopoly Reduces Farms To Barter

MM10081651 94 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "It Is Hard to Sell the Harvest to the Motherland's Granaries"]

[Text] It is generally recognized that the question of how to sell the harvest has become more important to the Russian peasants than the question of how to gather it.

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Here is the picture of grain sales in the Simonovo Kolkhoz in Zaokskiy Rayon, Tula Oblast. Instead of 1,000-1,200 tonnes, as in previous years, the state is only buying 250 (in 1993) or 220 (in 1994) tonnes of grain, and the kolkhoz is leaving the rest in seed stores and converted premises. In spring 250 tonnes were sent to Nizhniy Novgorod as barter and exchanged for all kinds of technical trifles and two trucks; around 100 tonnes of seed were sold for money to farmers, and around 200 were exchanged with neighboring kolkhozes: For every tonne of good seed the neighbors gave 2 tonnes of nonseed grain, since they had nothing else to pay with.

According to kolkhoz chairman Tikhon Kharitonenkov, the most unprofitable deal is with the state. At last year's price of around R60 per kilogram of grain, the rayon grain reception enterprise demanded such low weed content and moisture readings that in actual fact the kolkhoz received R36 per kilogram. And could do nothing about it.

In the opinion of Leonid Kholod, chief of the Ministry of Agriculture Price Policy Administration, this is a fairly typical picture of the Russian grain producers' sales. Grain exchanges do not mean much on the grain market at the moment, the state is behaving like a bull in a china shop, and most people are left with barter—a sign of the stone age in a market economy.

In recent years, most events on the grain market have been connected with the state's departure from the scene. It turned into a mediated customer but, as if as a joke, it left a monopolist market agent to replace it. Neither the president's edict on the deregulation of the grain market nor privatization measures affected the monopoly position of "Roskhleboprodukt." According to Leonid Kholod, the state monopoly was actually more pleasant than the commercial structure's monopoly. The state monopoly, naturally, endlessly had to be fed money, but it was possible to run it leaving a place in the market for outsiders (the "OGO" firm and others). But the monopoly of the commercial structure, which is in legal terms split up but actually forms a single whole, stifles any possible competition. And the grain producers.

The response to the government's incomprehensible behavior has been the regional grain conferences which IZVESTIYA has already written about. They have determined an average price—around R200,000 per tonne (3.3 times more than last year's but less than the rate of inflation). And they have threatened to leave the internal market for the foreign market. Particularly since our near neighbors' (Ukraine, Kazakhstan) harvests have been small this year.

Despite the large number of discrepancies and the vast number of disagreements, the grain producers are developing a normal sensitivity to the situation. The chairman of the same Simonovo Kolkhoz intends to increase the sowing of winter food wheat from 400 to 1,100 hectares, because there is still a constant demand for it on the part of the state and the grain-reception enterprises.

Finance House Fails To Pay Investors Dividends

MM1008163194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yaroslav Shimov: "Another Financial Swindle Seems To Be Brewing in Moscow"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA No. 144 reported on the misfortunes of investors in the People's Financial-Investment Company, who have been trying for around two months to get paid the promised substantial dividends from this esteemed firm. The leadership of the company promised to start issuing the money 2 August at 1100. But the clients did not receive the desired money either on that day or considerably later, when your IZVESTIYA correspondent found his way to the company's office.

The leaders of the firm, which offers citizens a fast growth of capital which is so popular these days, have been attributing the cash difficulties first to a fire at the bank where the People's Financial-Investment Company's accounts are held, then to problems with the transfer of money, and then to some other discrepancies...

Meanwhile, in the firm's office, worried investors can now familiarize themselves with an announcement notifying them that the money can be transferred to clients by means of non-cash transfer into their accounts in the Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population [Sberbank]. Admittedly, according to the people who have spent hours walking around the firm's premises in the hope of news, so far nothing has been heard of any fortunate people who have managed to obtain their money this way.

According to the assessments of the investors themselves, the sum gathered by the People's Financial-Investment Company is equal to no less than 70-80 billion rubles [R]. The figure may of course be exaggerated. But in any case the company has gathered a vast sum of money, since there were few clients who invested less than a million, and the number of investors is being assessed at 20,000.

If in the near future the People's Financial-Investment Company is added to the gloomy list of financial firms which have dashed the radiant expectations of their clients (which we do not wish upon it at all), this will be a fairly major scandal in an endless series of similar events. It is no doubt possible to put an end to this series only by means of some kind of emergency laws or decrees determining the rules of financial transactions in Russia. It has been clear for a long time that things have gone too far in the nationwide game of playing at investment, and, alas, it is hard to rely on the commercial acumen of our fellow citizens. No matter how many more "Technical Progresses" or "Impulse Investments" and other soap bubbles burst on the surface of the murky water of the domestic financial market, people will still chase after the "get-rich-quick" mirage.

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Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Rules Out Use of Force in Chechnya

LD1108123094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin reiterated that the use of force to settle the Chechen crisis is inadmissible. He was speaking before leaving Moscow for a working trip down the river Volga.

The Russian president recalled that "Russia and regions of the former union have traversed a difficult path in inter-ethnic relations since the break-up of the Soviet Union". According to Boris Yeltsin, "Russia has done without ethnic clashes only because its powers-to-be have avoided any forcible pressure".

"If we use force against Chechnya, it will be such a melee, there will be so much blood that no one would ever forgive us for it," the president said.

Along with this, he noted that "the role of opposition to Dudayev is growing in Chechnya, and I would not say that we have not influenced the process at all".

Interior Ministry Denies Plans To Invade

LD1008161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1419 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Aug—The main directorate of the commander of the interior troops of the Russian Interior Ministry has described as baseless and deliberately provocative Dzhokhar Dudayev's statements alleging that the Russian Interior Ministry's internal troops are getting ready to invade Chechen territory.

The main directorate's statement that was circulated today says that the subunits of internal troops in North Caucasus are carrying out the tasks assigned to them in strict accordance with current Russian legislation in order to ensure the population's security, protect public order, safeguard a legal regime in the area of the state of emergency, as well as to implement the quarantine measures caused by an outburst of cholera.

During the performance of the above tasks, there are partial movements of personnel, hardware, and special equipment, depending on the changing situation in the region. At the same time, the need to prevent terrorist acts and other possible conflict situations that can make the situation in North Caucasus more difficult is being taken into account.

Aide: Russia Not To Intervene in Chechnya

MK1108070094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[Report on interview with unidentified official of the Russian Government staff in charge of the Chechen question, by Yuriy Zaynashev; place and date not given: "The Chechen Knot. Smoke Without Fire?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] While taking no decisive steps, Moscow is still closely watching Chechnya through its resident agents. An official from the Russian Government staff in charge of the Chechen question, who asked not to be identified, revealed in an interview for MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS that signs of a common stance with regard to Chechnya have now emerged in Moscow's corridors of power for the first time in three years:

[Unidentified official] Hitherto, there have been many differences between the Ministry for Nationalities and the corresponding department of the presidential staff. These differences appear to have been skillfully fuelled by someone. Now the final result has come to the foreground for us. [passage omitted]

[Zaynashev] Why is the opposition getting stronger? Has the economic and political environment changed or is it simply because Moscow has recognized the Provisional Council?

[Official] The economic situation, too, is not tending to Dudayev's advantage. In addition, not a single state has recognized "independent Chechnya." Turkey, for instance, is threatening to do so, but that is unlikely.

[Zaynashev] How strong is Ruslan Khasbulatov's influence in the republic?

[Official] His influence has been exaggerated. Although the Chechens are proud that their countryman was at the helm of the Russian state, Khasbulatov himself has for too long, for decades, been cut off from Chechen reality. He is unlikely to become a leader.

[Zaynashev] Is a clash between the Cossacks and the Chechens in Stavropol Kray, about which the Provisional Council is warning, a possibility?

"That is unlikely. Although there are hotheads on both sides, on the whole common sense still prevails. Generally speaking, the Russian leadership considers Chechnya a component of our Federation, but it will continue to act in Chechnya strictly confidentially, it is not going to intervene, for the time being we are just monitoring the situation," the high-ranking government staffer concluded.

Chechen Congress Deems Council 'Terrorist Group'

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

LD1008172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow, August 10 (TASS)—The Chechen congress that opened in Groznyy on Wednesday condemned

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the Chechen Provisional Council led by Umar Avturkhanov as a Russian terrorist group.

A resolution adopted by the congress described the provisional council as a "subversive and terrorist group infiltrated by Russian intelligence services into the village of Znamenskoye in the nadterechny district," Chechen minister of information and the press Movladi Udugov told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

"The so-called provisional council headed by Umar Avturkhanov was established by none other, but the Russian leadership in order to be infiltrated into the Chechen Republic," the resolution said.

The delegations of nine out of 17 Chechen districts that are attending the congress called on Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev to "impose martial law on the entire territory of the republic, declare general mobilisation of the male population and take the necessary measures to repel the Russian army's aggression." The appeal was later joined by four other delegations.

The congress also adopted an appeal to the peoples of the caucasus, urging them "to strengthen unity and consolidate under the banner of freedom and independence in the face of the external danger and Russian aggression."

Udugov said it will become clear whether or not martial law and general mobilisation will be declared in the republic after Dudayev's speech at the congress later today.

The Chechen Congress also denounced the "pro-Russian and anti-Chechen activity" of former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Some delegates and the clergy suggested supplementing the draft resolution with a provision which would hold opposition leader Umar Avturkhanov and Khasbulatov responsible for possible "Russian aggression." "If Chechen blood is shed, it is going to be their blood that will be shed," they said.

FCS Denies Moscow Backing Council

LD1008181094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1704 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Aug—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] has categorically rejected official Groznyy's accusation, which claims that the Interim Council of Chechnya is a sabotage and terrorist grouping that has been dispatched by Moscow's and Russia's special services to the village of Znamenskoye in the Nadterechnyy Rayon of the republic in the North Caucasus.

Commenting at ITAR-TASS's request on this statement by the Chechen side, Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the public relations center of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, said that it was "totally absurd" and remarked that such pronouncements by Chechnya's leadership are political ploys directed at creating an enemy image. In the absence of any external threat, it is definitely necessary to invent one, the Russian counterintelligence official spokesman remarked. Groznyy has no concrete facts about any activities by Russia's special services in Chechnya, and there can be none, Mikhaylov said. What is more, he emphasized, in making these charges, the Chechen leaders must not forget that the Federal Counterintelligence Service does not possess its own sabotage and terrorist subunits.

Let us remind you that the accusation that the Interim Council of Chechnya was set up by the Russian leadership and sent to Chechnya by the special services was made on Wednesday by the Congress of the Chechen nation.

Chechen Congress Condemns Avturkhanov, Khasbulatov

LD1008165894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—The Chechen congress that opened in Groznyy on Wednesday adopted a resolution denouncing the "pro-Russian and anti-Chechen activity" of former Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Chechen Minister of Information and the Press Movladi Udugov told ITAR-TASS by telephone that the congress also adopted an appeal to the peoples of the Caucasus, urging them "to strengthen unity and consolidate in the name of freedom and independence in the face of the external danger and Russian aggression."

The delegations of nine out of 17 Chechen districts that are attending the congress called on Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev to "impose martial law on the entire territory of the republic, declare general mobilisation of the male population and take the necessary measures to repel the Russian Army's aggression." The appeal was later joined by four other delegations.

Udugov said it will become clear whether or not martial law and general mobilisation will be declared in the republic after Dudayev's speech at the congress later today.

Some delegates and the clergy suggested supplementing the draft resolution with a provision which would hold opposition leader Umar Avturkhanov and Khasbulatov responsible for possible "Russian aggression." "If Chechen blood is shed, it is going to be their blood that will be shed," they said.

About 10,000 people have gathered in front of the building where the congress is being held. The demonstrators are passing around "the appeal to the peoples of the Caucasus, Russians and Cossacks, soldiers and

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officers of the Russian Army." Udugov believes that the leaflets have been written by the congress organising committee. They called on the "soldiers and officers of the Russian Army" not to let themselves be involved in this "dirty political game."

Congress Grants Dudayev Special Powers

LD1108062994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Groznyy August 11 ITAR-TASS—The congress of the Chechen people, which ended its work in Groznyy late on Wednesday, gave President Dzhokhar Dudayev special powers allowing him to use any forcible measures and attract any forces in any part of the Chechen republic to rectify the present political situation and protect the integrity and independence of the Chechen republic, according to the congress resolution delivered to ITAR-TASS headquarters.

The congress instructed the Chechen president to call an all-out mobilisation of citizens "to protect the fatherland". The Nadterechny district, the home of the republic's opposition to President Dudayev, is proclaimed a zone under the state of emergency. The congress sentenced the organisers of the provisional council in the Nadterechny district to death (in absentia) "for the subversive terrorist activity against the Chechen people".

The Chechen minister of the press and information, Movladi Udugov told ITAR-TASS that the preamble of the final resolution adopted by the congress of the Chechen people blasts Russia for "mass-scale media diversion in the Russian Federation" and condemns the Russian leadership for "an open intervention of Russia's special services in the internal affairs of the Chechen republic".

Speaking at the congress, Dzhokhar Dudayev once again accused the Russian leadership of making "attempts at unleashing a new bloody conflict on the territory of the northern caucasus". He declared that "the Chechen people would use any means to protect the state's integrity and independence of the Chechen state".

The congress wound up its work with a collective prayer.

Chechen Congress Urges General Mobilization

LD1008191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The Congress of the Chechen People has given special powers to President Jokhar Dudayev and instructed him to declare general mobilization "for the defense of the motherland," an Interfax correspondent reports from Grozny.

The 1500 delegates from 17 regions of Chechnya, including Nadterechny, sentenced opposition leaders in Nadterechny region to death (in absentia). A resolution of the congress which ended in Groz'ny on Wednesday declares the region an emergency zone where a provisional administration will be appointed.

Dudayev's new powers include the right to take any steps in any parts of Chechnya to settle the situation and defend the interests and integrity of the republic. He also has the right to declare a holy war, "if the situation continues to worsen" and to invite Muslims around the world to join the war.

On the instructions of the congress the Chechen leadership is expected to appeal to the peoples of the Caucuses to send volunteers to defend the republic.

The delegates also unanimously voted for stopping the transmission of Russian television and radio broadcasts in Chechnya.

Martial Law Expected To Be Introduced 11 Aug

LD1108014194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0104 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 August—It is expected that Dzhokhar Dudayev will declare general mobilization in Chechnya today which means in practice the introduction of martial law. A source close to General Dudayev confirms that this will be done in accordance with the resolution adopted by the congress of the Chechen nation which finished on Wednesday. According to information from the same source, 1,500 delegates from all of Chechnya's rayons, including the rebellious Nadterechnyy Rayon, attended the congress which sharply condemned the actions of the Chechen opposition.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that an hour and a half after the congress ended, the total membership of the main staff of the armed forces of the Chechen Republic was summoned to Dudayev's office. A general assembly of commanders of all military units has been arranged for this morning. In all probability, a decree on the general mobilization of the male population of the Chechen Republic will also be proclaimed today.

On Wednesday, delegates at the congress of the Chechen nation were ordered to assist the prefects in their rayons to organize home guard units in the provinces, set up self-defense detachments, arm the population and construct lines of fortifications.

'National Revival Government' Pledges To End Crisis

LD1008191694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy Rayon of Chechnya), 10 Aug—The national revival government formed by the Chechen interim council announced today that it

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would be responsible for bringing that North Caucasian republic out of the "deep crisis" in all spheres of its life.

The government sees its principal task in building the foundation for a democratic development of society and economic recovery, as well as in a determined struggle against crime and corruption. In addition to this, the national revival government has said that it would do all it can to ensure that Chechnya should become a stabilizing factor in the North Caucasus.

The cause of national revival lies in the hands of the Chechen people itself; the people are on our side and we are strong enough to do away with the criminal clique, says the government's appeal to the Russian Cabinet of Ministers.

The document, signed by the head of government Ali Alavdinov, goes on to say: We hope that the Russian Government will make a correct judgement regarding the situation in Chechnya, will prevent an eruption of anti-Chechen attitudes in Russia and will draw a line between the Chechen people and the crimes committed by Dudayev and his entourage.

Chechen Interim Council Issues Appeal to Nation

LD1108090594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0716 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko]

[Text] Znamenskoye, (Chechen Republic), 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—ITAR-TASS has learned that the republic's government, formed Wednesday by the opposition Interim Council of Chechnya, will today make an appeal "to persons who have been working in the structures of Dudayev's criminal regime, and to members of public and religious organizations which have not yet broken with Dudayev."

In this document the government of Chechnya calls on compatriots, "finding themselves today at various poles of the political confrontation of the one Chechen nation", "to make the right choice." The government of Chechnya again calls on the nation to resolve the conflict on the republic's soil by peaceful means, remembering that the tokens of the rule of Dudayev's regime, as the document stresses, are "plunder, violence, banditry, narcotics addiction, and robbery of the Chechen people."

It is known that the Interim Council, demanding the removal of Dudayev's regime, formed a government of Chechnya. Its leader is Ali Alavdinov, who was recently the director general of a major corporation. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told that ministerial posts have been given to professional leaders "who have great experience of organizational work and who have not besmirched themselves by active collaboration with Dudayev's regime." Thus, in particular, Alash Saykhanov and Bedrudi Dzhamal'khanov have been appointed deputy prime ministers—they are "major leaders who have suffered persecution."

Ruslan Madiyev, the minister of foreign political affairs and foreign economic affairs, graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Affairs, and worked as first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the republic. General Vakhay Ibragimov, formerly the internal affairs minister of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, has joined the government as minister of internal affairs.

Chechen Opposition Determined To Hold Elections

LD1108060394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0558 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Znamenskoye, Nadterechny Distinct, Chechnya August 11 ITAR-TASS—The National Revival Government of the Chechen republic, which is in opposition to the President Dzhokhar Dudayev has published a political statement which says that the government is fully aware of taking office "in conditions of a profound crisis in all spheres of Chechnya's public life, the orgy of crime and the extreme impoverishment of the people against the background of fabulous enrichment of the corrupted top officials of Dudayev's criminal regime".

The government stresses in its statement that its main task is to revivify the republic and create a sound basis for society's democratic development, economic normalisation and decisive fighting against corruption and crime.

The government also says that its priorities include the organisation of stable work in the industry and the agrarian sector, the beginning of economic reforms and the restoration of economic ties with neighbouring republics and regions.

As concerns the social sphere, the government intends to ensure regular payments of wages to the employees in the budget-supported sphere, of pensions and allowances. The government also plans to set up employment centres and funds to help the needy.

The national revival government also proclaims that it sees its tasks in consolidating the moral and ethical norms of the Chechen people by way of a large-scale development of culture and national arts and by way of attracting the spiritual leaders, scholars, imams and elders to this activity.

The statement stresses the government's determination to prepare and hold free broad-based democratic elections to the legislative assembly and a referendum on the key issues facing Chechen society.

Mamodayev Ready To Discuss National Reconciliation

LD1008191094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Yaragi Mamodayev, the prime minister in the "government of national trust" and former deputy prime

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minister in Dzhokhar Dudayev's cabinet, told Interfax that he was prepared to start talks on national reconciliation with all his political opponents, in particular the Dudayev regime and Umar Avturkhanov's Provisional Council. Mamodayev believed that the talks might lead to the formation of a coalition government.

He declared that he is prepared to present to a truly popular forum of Chechnya his program of the republic's economic revival in 1994-99. Mamodayev said that the $5 billion the first stage of the program needs will be obtained on a contractual basis. In his opinion, the program could start on the day following the installation of constitutional order in Chechnya.

Mamodayev said that a convention attended by the three to five elders from each of the about 140 clans, representative of all the peoples, parties and movements in the republic would fit the description of a truly popular forum.

He said that the Congress of Chechen People held in Grozny on August 10 was pro-Dudayev and added that neither the congress nor the anti-Dudayev forces had the popular mandate.

Mamodayev called for working out the principle of conducting talks so as to arrive at a mutually acceptable decision recognizing the real political, economic and geopolitical interests of Russia and Chechnya.

Khasbulatov in Chechnya on 'Peace Mission'

LD1008194094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy Rayon, Chechnya), 10 Aug—Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian government, today criticized the first steps made by the Chechen interim council, which is in opposition to President Dzhokhar Dudayev. In an interview with ITAR-TASS in his native village of Tolstoy-Yurt he said, among other things, that the council led by Umar Avturkhanov: was dancing to the tune of the Russian federal authorities.

People expected to see a wide popular front in the interim council and not a clandestine grouping, which does not consult the people, the ex-speaker continued. This has undermined its reputation to a certain degree and given the ruling regime in Chechnya an opportunity to accuse the opposition of relying on "Russian bayonets."

In Khasbulatov's words, he has arrived in Chechnya on a peace mission, moreover, his main task is to prevent use of arms and to make Dudayev resign without involving the Russian Armed Forces. The latter is particularly important, inter alia for Russia itself, the ex-speaker said. Therefore I am calling on the federal authorities to cooperate with me, he continued.

According to Khasbulatov, in his activities he was seeking support among representatives of all the citizens of the republic: Russians and Cossacks, but above all the elders and spiritual leaders. Khasbulatov told ITAR-TASS he was hoping to set up a representative peacemaking delegation in the very near future, which would be able not only to make Dudayev's criminal regime resign but also to hold a nationwide referendum and elections. However, at the same time he said that he is not laying claims to any post personally, but feeling the support of the people, he is trying to play an effective role in establishing peace in Chechnya and stabilizing the situation in the North Caucasus.

Chechnya Again Denies Khasbulatov Citizenship

LD1008145194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The separatist Russian republic of Chechnya has once again deprived former Russian parliamentary chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov of Chechen citizenship.

Chechen Prosecutor General Usman Imayev said on Wednesday at a congress of 2000 representatives of 17 districts, held in Groznyy, that Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen, had lost his citizenship due to his "provocative activities" against Chechnya.

The breakaway republic took away Chechen citizenship from Khasbulatov once before when he was still head of the Russian parliament. Following last October's conservative revolt in Moscow Chechnya reinstated Khasbulatov's citizenship in accordance with numerous requests from Chechnya's population.

Speaking about the current situation in Chechnya, Imayev said the republic had no opposition as such, no anti-government movement with its own political program. "The only purpose of the so-called opposition in Nadterechnaya District is to overthrow lawful authority," he said.

Other speakers at the congress expressed support for Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and condemned the opposition for actions that they said could lead to splitting the republic.

Dudayev Seen Clinging To Power Without Support

MM1008165994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Petr Karapetyan: "They Want Dzhokhar Dudayev To 'Go' Voluntarily"]

[Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev's well-known statement of readiness to resign "right now" if the world community recognizes Chechnya was perceived by the opposition Provisional Council, as well as in Russia itself, as a propaganda move—and not even a very successful one. People simply did not believe Dzhokhar, reasonably arguing that a voluntary resignation must not propose any conditions, still less conditions known to be unrealizable in the immediate future. But his opponents jumped at the "idea." Ruslan Khasbulatov, who arrived in Chechnya 8 August, even said: "It is necessary to secure Dudayev's voluntary resignation, guaranteeing

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his safety also in the future." This is also the viewpoint of the anti-Dudayev opposition.

Of course, Dzhokhar is now "the wrong man." Just a few months ago any of his enemies would have tried to approach his palace without any ceremony. But today? Ruslan Khasbulatov (!) escorted by 200 (!!) vehicles and to the accompaniment of a salute (!!!) swept at high speed across the square in front of the palace, as though thereby saying: "Dzhokhar, you are no longer the boss here. Ninety-nine percent of Chechens do not support you, and so your power is doomed. Leave amicably...."

It is noteworthy that Dzhokhar Dudayev, as a rule, ignores all the opposition's appeals, preferring to appeal to Russia and, at times, also to the world community. The latest occasion was Ruslan Khasbulatov's trip to the republic. To Dudayev's mind, it has been undertaken almost for the sole purpose of rehearsing a version of a coup d'etat in Russia itself. In my view, the intention is as simple as it is obvious: It was not possible to provoke Moscow into a "strong-arm option for resolving the power crisis in Chechnya" which would have rescued Dudayev, so maybe it will be possible to use Ruslan Khasbulatov to frighten it. What will happen next is explained intelligibly by Musa Shanibov, leader of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples: "Any escalation of Russian-Chechen confrontation will end in major carnage in the North Caucasus, and the 12 million Russians who live here will become hostages in it."

Groznyy, incidentally, is demonstratively strengthening its mobilization potential, and officials are threatening Russia with acts of terrorism. While talking about his readiness to go, Dudayev is prepared to do anything to preserve his power and is not averse to knocking together an alliance of diverse nationalist forces of the North Caucasus. He thereby assumes all responsibility for the future development of the situation in Chechnya.

Stavropol Official Denies 'Terror' Against Chechens

LD1008141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol August 10 TASS—Reports on mass terror against Chechens in the Stavropol territory which were circulated by the Chechen-press agency "are of provocative nature", Zoya Novikova, press secretary of the militia department at the Stavropol territorial administration, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

She said that only two crimes connected with Chechens were registered over the past ten days. A resident of the Kurskiy District (bordering on Chechnya) tendered a complaint to Stavropol law enforcement bodies on Tuesday that "an armed gang of 20 clothed in Russian military uniforms" attacked his car.

Expensive personal belongings and some two million rubles in cash were seized, at gun point, from the car owner and his passengers, among whom there were two businessmen from Dagestan. An investigation was started into this case. But it is evident even now that the case is clearly criminal and has nothing to do with racial relations.

The other case is being examined by the most experienced investigators at the Stavropol prosecutor's office: a murdered Chechen youth was spotted at a sheep's pen in the Kurskiy district.

There are many unclear things about the crime. Judging by indirect evidence, it is quite probable that the youth was killed in another place, and his body was brought to the pen to whip up racial tension.

Novikova stressed that no other crimes connected with Chechens were registered.

Regrettably, several Chechen families left Stavropol frightened by provocative statements from the Chechen capital Groznyy. However, some of them, finding out the truth, returned.

The ballyhoo raised in Groznyy is "an attempt to draw public attention from real reasons why the social, political, economic and criminal situation in the Chechen Republic is so bad", Novikova stressed.

Khasbulatov, Avturkhanov Comment on Opposition

LD1008172994 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Pavel Lapkov from Groznyy in the Nadterechnyy district of the Chechen Republic; with recorded comments by Umar Avturkhanov, head of the Chechen interim council; and Ruslan Khasbulatov, former parliament speaker]

[Excerpts] [Lapkov] For that past three days Chechnya has been in the state of psychological warfare. Interim council fighters are waiting to see who is going to attack first. Many of them think that if Dudayev lost patience it would only be to the advantage of the interim council. This might be a sign to commence an attack. That is why border posts in Nadterechnyy district are being put in a state of combat readiness. They have already repulsed an attack by a bridage from Dudayev's state security department. According to the information provided by the interim council three attackers were killed.

[Begin recording] [Avturkhanov] Yes, I support Russia. I do not hide it from anyone. Unless we establish a normal relationship with Russia, we are not going to succeed in constructing and expanding our industry and an improving the living standards of our population. We understand it very well. All the Chechens understand it very well. [end recording]

[Lapkov] [passage omitted] Ruslan Khasbulatov gives a very reserved assessment of the abilities of the interim council to resist Dudayev's regime.

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[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] Some opposition people are already thinking the following way: What is the difference between one illegal regime and a new illegal one, which is waiting to take over. The latter does not intend to take account of people's opinions either. [end recording]

[Lapkov] The majority of observers think that the result of confrontation will depend on the results of the talks which Avturkhanov and Khasbulatov are separately carrying out with local leaders. The interim council released a statement today saying that our guests insist on the fact that the regime should be overthrown using any means in the next couple of days, even if it is done in an armed way.

Provisional Leader on Ossetian-Ingushetia Situation

LD1008213494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1717 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 10 Aug—"Confrontation between North Ossetia and Ingushetia is creating tension, not only in the North Caucasus but in southern Russia as well," Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the provisional administration, said today speaking live on the North Ossetian television.

What is more important in the work of the provisional administration and its staff is reconciling the conflicting sides, making provisions for the refugees, searching for missing people, and carrying out current investigation work. All the efforts of the provisional administration are being directed at present toward stabilizing the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, where a state of emergency has been extended until 30 September and implementing the decrees by the Russian president and resolutions by the Russian Federation Government on the return of refugees to their homes.

In Lozovoy's opinion, the hope has appeared lately that the situation in the region will improve. The procedure for the return of refugees to four populated areas in Prigorodnyy Rayon, signed by the presidents of both republics and the head of the provisional administration, and the time schedule for the return of refugees to these villages provided by the Ossetian side have become real moves toward peace and accord. At the same time, he expressed concern over delays in resolving the refugees problem and continuing provocations and terrorist acts.

Speaking about the situation in Chechnya, the head of the provisional administration expressed concern over the fact that the development of the situation in this republic was negatively affecting the settlement of the conflict between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Yeltsin's Visit to Volga, Don Previewed

LD1008180894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] According to Interfax sources, President Yeltsin is to begin a planned trip to the Volga and Don regions on Thursday morning. He is to travel to those regions by ship which will set out from Dubna.

The stop-overs have not been determined yet. However, Nizhniy Novgorod, Togliatti, Samara and Kazan are most likely to be visited. Rostov-on-Don is also included in the plan of the trip, where Yeltsin is expected to arrive by air.

Yeltsin told journalists shortly before his departure to the Krasnoyarsk Territory at the end of July that he was planning to visit many cities, including Nizhniy Novgorod, Togliatti and Kazan where he was to discuss serious problems.

Yeltsin's press service reported earlier that Yeltsin also intended to meet with the leaders of Russia's constituent members. Some sources believe that during talks with the Tatar leadership Yeltsin will discuss the implementation of the treaty on power sharing between Russia and Tatarstan.

IF Note: Tatarstan's Vice President Vassiliy Likhachev told Interfax in an exclusive interview that Moscow and Kazan must confirm their intention to broaden their relations on the basis of the principles of democracy and reforms. In his opinion, this is important for supporting the political image of the two presidents and of the Russian and Tatarstan's leaderships, and for attaining the ultimate goal of asserting the ideas of justice and well-being for all peoples of the Russian Federation. Task number one, said Likhachev, is to set up a joint commission in charge of a wide gamut of issues pertaining to the agreements which are not properly implemented. He expressed the opinion that the commission would deal with foreign-policy issues rather than economic ones.

Yeltsin told reporters that he was planning to get acquainted with the Volga and Don regions because those regions were vitally important for Russia. For instance, Togliatti, the center of automobile industry; Samara, the center of aviation building, Nizhniy Novgorod, a major industrial center and Kazan and Rostov-on- Don, the centers of machine-building, largely determine the level of Russia's industrial development. The Volga and Don regions are also major centers of agricultural production, he said.

Quarters close to the President believe that Yeltsin will concentrate on the social problems facing Russia's central regions, and also on military conversion, privatization and other aspects of the economic reform in cities and in the countryside.

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International Affairs

Kazakh President Arrives in Kiev for Talks

LD1008173894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko and UKRINFORM correspondent Alexey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev August 10 TASS—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev arrived in Ukraine on a two-day working visit on Wednesday.

At Kiev's airport he was met by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukrainian President Chief of Staff Dmitriy Tabachnik, Kiev City Council head Leonid Kosakovskiy and other officials.

During the visit, Nazarbayev will meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, hold talks with Ukrainian officials and sign a Kazakh-Ukrainian memorandum. Nazarbayev is also expected to hold talks with Ukrainian Security Council Chairman Vladimir Gorbulin.

Observers connect Nazarbayev's visit to Ukraine with the increasingly growing integration tendencies in former Soviet republics. Many believe that the Ukrainian-Kazakh summit talks will give a powerful impetus to the restoration of economic ties severed by the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Talks To Focus on Economic Ties

MK1108094094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Svetlana Sukhova and Viktor Zubanyuk: "Nursultan Nazarbayev's Ukrainian Visit. Kiev May Start Competing With Alma-Ata"]

[Text] Nursultan Nazarbayev, who arrived in Kiev yesterday, plans to discuss with Ukrainian leaders—primarily Leonid Kuchma—a number of crucial problems related to economic cooperation. For instance, the Kazakhstani president is concerned at how serious Ukraine is about deepening economic integration within the CIS, something that former Kiev leaders vigorously opposed. The point is that excessive activity of the former USSR's second largest economy in the CIS may bring about a situation where Nazarbayev will also have to heed Kiev's opinion, not only Moscow's. This is much more important than the question of joint space programs which is also on the summit agenda.

This is not the first time that the Kazakhstani president has had the privilege of seeing Kreshchatik [central street in Kiev]: His latest Kiev visit took place in January. That visit was exceptionally productive: Following talks with Leonid Kravchuk, a treaty on friendship and cooperation and a joint declaration entitled "The Modern World: Challenges and Dangers" were signed alongside a number of intergovernmental agreements. The present summit will be different from the January one at least in the fact that Nazarbayev will have to deal with a new counterpart. Otherwise, however, no changes are expected, including in the tight schedule of the talks.

Everything, down to the signing of a joint memorandum, has been planned in advance. The centerpiece of the talks is trade and economic relations between the two countries. Nor did the Kazakhstani leader pass over his favorite subject: space cooperation. The money-losing nature of Baykonur and the dire financial straits it has found itself in are an open secret. Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second largest heir, is one of the few republics that have their own space programs and that are interested in operating the large space center. But here Kiev has to take into account that the status of Baykonur has changed since the January agreement was signed: Now the space center is leased by Russia alone.

But economic problems did not deflect the Kazakhstani president's attention from politics. After talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin in St. Petersburg on the Eurasian Union (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 9 August), Nazarbayev decided also to learn what others think about the idea. In a tete-a-tete conversation with Leonid Kuchma he is also planning to find out how serious is Kiev's desire to increase the republic's role in the Economic Union.

Earlier, Kiev's ambitions did not go beyond associate membership, but both during and since his election campaign Kuchma has repeatedly stated that for Ukraine this is not enough—it is essential to take the most active part "in devising the rules that would otherwise be devised without it and contrary to its interests." This view was echoed by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. He has emphasized that although the main principles of the republic's foreign policy—equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and adherence to international obligations—remain unchanged, now is the time "to clarify approaches in some areas of Ukraine's foreign policy."

In Zlenko's words, the country should pay more attention to enhancing its relation with the CIS countries and, in the first place, to straightening out existing problems in Ukrainian-Russian ties. In the Ukrainian foreign minister's view, all problems should be resolved exclusively at bilateral talks. This applies not only to Moscow, but also to Alma-Ata [Almaty]. Thus, Nazarbayev's fears that Ukraine is serious in its intention to come to grips with CIS problems are not groundless. Hence, the Kazakhstani leader will have one more rival. For proposing to Moscow that "everything should be put together and split" is one thing, while inviting Kiev, too,—however reluctantly—to grab its piece of the pie is quite another.

Kuchma, Nazarbayev Meet Behind Closed Doors

LD1108100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko, UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

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[Text] Kiev, 11 Aug—A meeting has started in the Marina Palace today between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who arrived in Kiev on a two-day working visit yesterday. The meeting is taking place behind closed doors.

ITAR-TASS has learned from a high-ranking official in the Ukraine's head of state administration that the presidents will be focusing on matters concerning the further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It is possible that a package of problems concerning the process of integration among former USSR republics will also be discussed. Cooperation in space will also be touched on.

Many politicians believe the current meeting between the presidents will provide new stimulus for the restoration of economic ties, which broke down as a result of the collapse of the USSR.

Accord Signed; Kuchma, Nazarbayev Comment

WS1108111694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Republic of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev is continuing his visit to Ukraine. A memorandum was signed an hour ago, which concerns the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Ukraine and the implementation of agreements signed earlier this year, as well as those which were signed yesterday and today during the talks in Kiev. The document was signed by Nursultan Nazarbayev and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Immediately after the signing, the two presidents held a joint news conference. They expressed their satisfaction with the course of the negotiations and the achieved results. One of the most important results is support for the idea of a common economic zone and integration of the Kazakh and Ukrainian economies. A program for the next five years—up to 1999—was worked out. The program envisions the establishment of joint enterprises in the crucial export industries, such as iron alloys, reprocessing of nonferrous metals in Ukraine, and deliveries of machines and agriculture equipment to Kazakhstan. As Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized, it is possible to establish international companies and joint enterprises in these industries on new market conditions.

The presidents voiced their common stance on issues of domestic and foreign policies, and a policy within the CIS.

Moldovan Prime Minister Arrives for One-Day Visit

LD1108092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0705 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev August 11 TASS—Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli arrived in Ukraine for a one-day working visit on Thursday.

Ukrainian First Vice-Premier Valeriy Samoplavskyy met the Moldovan dignitary at the Borispol airport.

Sangheli is expected to meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol during his visit.

U.S. Disarmament Mission Stresses Non-Proliferation

WS1108095194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Today, the [Supreme Council] Commission for the Issues of Defense and State Security was visited by a U.S. delegation. Besides the key issues of disarmament, the discussion focused on the deterrence of currently uncontrollable dissemination of strategic materials and technologies throughout the world, which can be utilized not only for peaceful purposes, but also for military ones. It was emphasized that the implementation of a large-scale program for disarmament on the basis of the trilateral agreement between Ukraine, Russia, and the United States is crucial for the future of all humanity.

Kuchma, Soros Reportedly Discuss Aid

WS1108095094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Today, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma met with George Soros, the founder and manager of the charitable international Soros Fund. Leonid Kuchma and George Soros exchanged views about the political, economic, and cultural situation in Ukraine.

According to a source in the administration, who preferred to remain anonymous, the Ukrainian side was interested in the directions and scope of the Soros Fund's assistance in Ukraine. The meeting was attended, along with representatives of the presidential apparatus, by Minister of Economy Roman Shpek—this gives reason to believe that the talk also touched upon direct support by the international fund for the scientific safeguarding of reforms in the Ukrainian economy.

Navy Urges Understanding With Russian Sailors

LD1008133094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The military council of the Ukrainian Navy has called on Ukrainian sailors to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding with their Russian counterparts.

The address to the Ukrainian sailors approved by the military council Tuesday expresses "satisfaction with the stabilization of the situation between the two countries at the government level on the conclusion of the pre-election campaign in Ukraine."

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The council believes that the Briz-94 exercises with the participation of naval forces of several countries, including Ukraine and Russia, demonstrated the possibility of cooperation and interaction between the fleets.

"In the future these relations can become a good tradition and a norm of behavior for sailors of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy," the address says.

At the same time the command reminded sailors about "existence of forces which are trying to provoke confrontation and mutual mistrust between Russia and Ukraine."

"The Ukrainian Navy rejects any actions which hinder strengthening friendship between Russia and Ukraine," the address emphasizes.

National Affairs

Deputy Premier for Humanitarian Affairs Appointed

LD1108091494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2050 GMT 10 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] President Leonid Kuchma has appointed Ivan Kuras Ukrainian Vice-Premier for Humanitarian Affairs. Mykola Zhulynskyy, who held the post earlier, was dismissed on account of performing the functions of a permanent member of parliament.

Ivan Kuras, born in 1939, is a Doctor of Science (History), a professor and corresponding member of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences. In 1983 deputy director of the Institute for Political Studies and in 1991 director of Institute for Ethnic Relations and Political Science.

Deputy Chief of Security Service Appointed

LD1108092194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2050 GMT 10 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] On Tuesday [9 August] President Leonid Kuchma appointed Leonid Derkach the First Deputy Chief of the Security Service of Ukraine. General Derkach held posts in Pavlograd and Dniepropetrovsk. Until recently he headed the government service for information protection.

Kuchma Meets With Law Enforcement Officials

LD1008135494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 10 Aug—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has begun carrying out one of the main principles of his pre-electoral program—the fight against crime and corruption. He spoke to oblast procurators of Ukraine, leaders of law enforcement bodies, and the Ukraine security service during a meeting at the procurator general's office. The presence of Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk; Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Oleksandr Tkachenko; Procurator General Vladyslav Datsyuk; and Valeriy Malikov, head of Ukraine's security service was proof of the importance of the meeting. Journalists who had been invited to the meeting were allowed to be present in the conference hall for seven minutes. They were only able to hear the applause of the state fighters of corruption as they greeted the president.

Stresses Observing Law in Fighting Crime

LD1008235294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2150 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 10 August—The course of the fulfillment of the president's decree on combating crime was discussed at a conference of the leadership of the procurator general's office and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma. The conference was attended by the procurators of oblasts.

During a sharp conversation, specific claims and strict demands were made to the procurators of oblasts as far as stepping up the effectiveness of procurator's supervision and investigation of cases are concerned. "By no means should we allow the fight against crime to acquire signs of a political campaign with all the negative phenomena inherent in it," stressed the president in his speech before the conference participants. "I adhere, and I will adhere, to the stand of strict abidance by law and each of you will be personally responsible for the fact that during the offensive on crime the idea of purging society should not be compromised."

Having criticized the slow consideration of many cases and their failure due to the tolerance of the procurator's office and its dependence on this world's mighty, Leonid Kuchma said he would resolutely stop any attempts of exerting pressure on the procurator's office: It should serve the law and only the law.

Crimea Appeals to Kuchma for Crime Aid

944K2040B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Letter from S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea: "To the President of Ukraine Mr. L.D. Kuchma. Copy to Acting Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine V.I. Radchenko"]

[Text] Esteemed Leonid Danilovich!

The profound concern evoked by the aggravation of the crime situation in Crimea has given the republic Supreme Council the right to appeal to you personally to take decisive measures to stabilize the situation on the peninsula.

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The decision of the past leaders of Ukraine to switch the jurisdiction of the Crimean militia directly to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is already producing negative results. Every day innocent people die in Crimea and unrest and tension among the republic population are growing.

The chief of the Internal Affairs Main Administration in Crimea of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Major General V.S. Chernyshov, in our opinion, is not adequately oriented to the situation that exists. Not only is there no operational interaction between the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Crimean Supreme Council and Government but there is not even elementary exchange at the information level.

The Crimean Supreme Council, as the body that expresses the will of the people, asks that you render the most effective assistance aimed at developing and implementing in practice the measures necessary for reducing crime in Crimea and above all restoration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Crimea.

We are placing all of our hopes in your state wisdom and we will also take this occasion to express to you, Leonid Danilovich our confident high respect for you.

[Signed] Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea S. Tsekov

Crimean Interior Minister Rejects 'Dual Subordination'

WS1108102494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Crimean Interior Minister Is Ready To Be Subordinate to Ukrainian Interior Ministry"]

[Text] Crimean Interior Minister Valeriy Kuznetsov does not think it fit to put the Crimean Interior Ministry under dual subordination to Kiev and Simferopol. Speaking at the session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet devoted to combating crime, V. Kuznetsov stated that in his opinion, this issue has to be resolved at negotiations with representatives of the Ukrainian leadership. He said that he is going to hold talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Radchenko in Kiev on 8 August. Kuznetsov thinks that the financing of Crimean Interior Ministry institutions should be carried out by Ukraine and Crimea on a shared basis.

At the same time, the chief of the Crimean militia, Valeriy Petukhov, declared from the session's rostrum that at the present time, the entire Crimean ministry is in fact subordinated to the Chief Interior Affairs Administration of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, INTERFAX-UKRAINE reported. He also said that Minister Valeriy Kuznetsov is left "alone and without any real power leverages."

As was earlier reported, Valeriy Kuznetsov was appointed Crimean interior minister in April of this year by an edict from Crimean President Meshkov. Also at that time, the Crimean president created the Crimean Interior Ministry and the Crimean Security Service, and deemed them subordinate only to Simferopol.

Crimean Party Halts Activity After Members' Assassinations

LD1108094694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2050 GMT 10 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] The Christian-Liberal Party of Crimea is suspending its activities, a political council member of the party Sergey Rybak told Interfax-Ukraine on Wednesday. Two major businessmen, the party leader Yevgeny Podanev and his successor, an advisor of the Crimean president Mikhail Korchelava were assassinated during the past six weeks. On Monday [8 August] night two party members Aleksandr Rulyov and Sergey Turukalo were wounded in an armed attack. Rulyov's wound is critical, Rybak said quoting doctors. Turukalo has a shin injury, according to Rybak. According to him, it is hard to say why Christian Liberals are being shot. The PR section of the Sevastopol Interior Department says Rulyov has been charged and tried several times.

Deputy Begrudges Disarmament 'Aid Game'

WS1108102594 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, member of the Ukrainian Republican Party and head of the legislative commission for nuclear policies and security, by Sergey Rakhmanin; place and date not given: "A Lot Is Done To Turn Us Into a Banana Republic"—first paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[Text] Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, head of the Supreme Council commission for nuclear policies and security, Ukrainian, born in 1942; elected Ukrainian parliamentary deputy from District 406. He graduated from the Kiev Polytechnic Institute; Doctor of Technical Sciences, professor, academic, vice president of the Ukrainian Academy of Technical Sciences. Before his election to the Supreme Council, he served as dean of the aviation and space systems department and head of the theoretic mechanics department at the Kiev Polytechnic Institute, as well as director of the Research and Development Institute of Problem Mechanics at the same institute. His was nominated as a candidate for head of the parliament in 1994, and was also considered for chairman of the Supreme Council commission for defense and national security issues.

[Rakhmanin] Your nomination for chairman of the legislative commission for defense failed to receive support from most deputies. Rumor has it that colleagues

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from your political camp were categorically against your heading the "nuclear" commission. Still, you did become its chairman...

[Pavlovskyy] I was familiar with nuclear power engineering and aware of the significance of this issue, so I thought I could cope with this task. No pressure was exerted on me to make this decision. In my opinion, I will manage to encourage my fellow commission members to work enthusiastically.

[Rakhmanin] Your parliamentary body is quite complex...

[Pavlovskyy] And quite lean, too. It so far includes nine members.

[Rakhmanin] One of the most acute issues facing the structure that you head is the removal of nuclear weapons. What difficulties have you encountered when handling this issue?

[Pavlovskyy] Ukraine and Russia fulfill their obligations as part of the tripartite declaration on the removal of nuclear arms, and our country does this at a 100-percent rate. The United States, however, chooses to help not so much with money as with transportation. But automobiles and cranes cannot replace money. Get rid of a warhead, and a missile is left with fuel that needs to be handled. This is a very complex issue requiring substantial funds. I think that it should be discussed at the highest possible levels.

As for the Chernobyl nuclear plant, we will have to shut it down. This, however, calls for time and huge funds; and we are so far offered only compensation for electricity. Besides, what will happen with people, their jobs, and the housing problem? To resolve all Chernobyl-related problems, we need at least $6 billion instead of the $200 million promised by the G-7 countries.

Generally speaking, one can say that instead of the West helping Ukraine, Ukraine helps the West. Funds that are supposedly funneled to meet our country's needs end up in the accounts of foreign companies. Foreign states, logically, prefer to invest in their own companies, but this logic does not make it any easier for Ukraine. Our commission is going to bring the government's attention to this fact. In the future, one should make it clear that aid should go directly to Ukrainian organizations. Many regard Ukraine as a banana republic, and a lot is done to turn it into one. The economic aid game only generates unemployment in our country. One should proceed from the assumption that no one else but us needs a strong Ukraine.

[Rakhmanin] From the point of view of scientific and political circles, is it possible that Ukraine may claim its right to possess nuclear arms?

[Pavlovskyy] I think that Ukraine will not go back to nuclear weapons. Nuclear technologies should, however, definitely be used for peaceful means—in agriculture, the instrument-making industry, medicine. Besides, it is stupid to grudge money for science—new technologies represent Ukraine's future. For the already available technologies to enter world markets, one should make consistent and gradual steps, and not hurry to sell off technologies. It is in our country that production must be organized first.

[Rakhmanin] Do you think the present parliament is very different than its predecessor?

[Pavlovskyy] Very much so. I would say it works faster and more efficiently. I believe that by this fall, the deputies will be fully prepared to make concrete decisions. Unfortunately, debates and conflicts are inevitable—this is politics.

Closure of Antiaircraft Schools Criticized

LD1008215994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1835 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—As a UNIAN correspondent learned on 10 August, in accordance with directive D-077 by Anatoliy Lopata, the chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the liquidation of the Kiev Higher Antiaircraft Missile Engineering School (KVZRIU) will be completed on 12 August.

Commenting on this fact at the request of UNIAN, Oleksandr Avramenko, senior scientific worker of the research institute at the Defense Ministry of Ukraine, said that KVZRIU is one of the oldest educational establishments training antiaircraft defense specialists. According to him, the liquidation of the school is just a link in a chain of deliberate ruination of the military education system in Ukraine. In so doing they first and foremost disband the schools that had international certificates allowing their graduates to receive Master's diplomas. On the basis of these schools they are planning to set up establishments of humanitarian orientation of the former political school type. "The liquidation of almost all antiaircraft missile schools can be regarded as sabotage, because the most effective arm of the antiaircraft defense service is being undermined," said Avramenko.

Army Short of Educated Senior Commanders

WS1008135894 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Klyuchnikov: "The Army Is Manned With Regiment Commanders. But Where Should 5,000 Company Commanders Come From?"]

[Text] According to Ukrainian Defense Ministry experts, recently conducted analyses of the personnel situation show that positive changes have been made in this sphere. The Army has 90 percent of the required number of officers in command bodies and military units, and 84

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percent of warrant officers. High levels of officers' professional skills is successfully maintained. Positions of regiment, brigade, and division commanders are 100 percent filled.

Almost 27,000 officers and about 2,000 warrant officers were transferred from abroad. The issue of job placement for about 8,000 military cadets was resolved. Extensive work was done to ensure continuity in service of officers and warrant officers whose units are subject to disbandment.

At the same time, personnel problems in the Ukrainian Armed Forces continue to exist. The officer corps is short of nearly 15,000 officers, of which 5,000 are primary officer positions. Low social housing standards, meager pay coupled by flexible working hours, and some other problems have resulted in requests for discharge filed by more than 12,000 officers in 1993, of which 4,000 were under 30 years of age.

Shortcomings in working with servicemen can be directly linked with leniency of commanders and mistakes made by personnel departments in handling discharge plans for officers that have completed the required length of service. Last year, for example, this plan had an 82 percent completion rate. This impedes promotion of young officers and makes them feel uncertain about their future.

The officers' corp profile testifies to a limited range of selection for the position of regiment commander. For example, more than 56 percent of the regiment commanders are above the age of 40. Some 4 percent of them have no academic background. Only 31 percent of the deputy commanders and chiefs of staff turned 40, and 28 percent have no academic background.

Also shortages of generals and senior officers with appropriate skills at the operational-strategic level are acute.

Efforts To Develop New Weapons Noted

LD1108124694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] An economic crisis has severely affected all Ukraine, bypassing no aspect of life in this country, including the armed forces and those industries that are engaged in the production of ammunition and war machinery. Life goes on; so does Ukrainian science.

We have to create new types of weapons so that Ukraine does not lag behind other industrialized countries in the military field. So specialists began to work at a state program for the development of new types of arms. Ukraine has a powerful scientific potential and efficient industrial facilities to produce modern weaponry. The only obstacle is lack of funds.

According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, only 25 percent of the state budget are allocated for research institutions involved in the creation of new arms. The meager eight percent go to the Ministry of Defense for purchasing weapons abroad. That's why only the most necessary military operations are being carried out to maintain the fighting capacity of the armed forces, the military complain.

For all these difficulties Ukrainian-made satellites will be soon launched into space, Lieutenant-General (Oleg Natenko) asserts. Ukraine has a powerful armored (?part). For instance, the T-80 tank does not yield to the American tank Abrams. Kievan aviation builders are working hard to develop a new type of warplane, the An-70. According to specialists, this aircraft will be the world's best as to its technical and tactical characteristics.

A great deal of work is being carried out to create new warships. More than a dozen warships are being built at Ukrainian shipbuilding yards. Ukraine possesses modern technologies for the production of firearms—automatic pistols, rifles and other weapons manufactured at the (Pivdenmash) plant and at the Kiev plant never fail.

According to Lt. Gen. (Oleg Natenko) Ukraine boasts a first class air-to-air missile, efficient radio locating stations and many other military facilities.

Ukrainian weapons possess top quality characteristics, do not yield to the same models made in other countries, and according to many characteristics, even surpass them. Regrettably, Ukraine has not represented itself as a military state, first of all because it has no advertising of its weaponry. Although Ukraine does not have modern arms to offer for sale at the world market, it has failed to present a single complete set of arms at any international exhibition. [sentence as heard]

Ukrainian military and scientists involved in the creation of new weapons state that the participation in the world market of arms is the only thing that will make Ukrainian arms competitive.

Ecological Damage by Black Sea Fleet Viewed

WS1108102394 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Heorhiy Veremiychyk, head of the press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection: "Poisoned Apple at Black Sea Market"]

[Text] The fuss over the Black Sea Fleet, which has become an issue of contention between Russia and Ukraine, the meticulous counting of ships, submarines, aircraft, and even blankets that are part of the so-called on-shore infrastructure, did not prevent serious experts from realizing that rusty ill-equipped vessels are not worth a dramatic conflict between two neighboring states. The only thing that is probably worth grave attention is the ecological aftermath of the Black Sea Fleet's operations.

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Some time ago, a competent Ministry of Environmental Protection Commission, which included officials from the Defense Ministry, the State Committee for Housing and Communal Property, the State Committee for Oil and Gas, and the National Academy of Sciences examined the state of environmental protection at Black Sea Fleet naval bases. It was discovered that the prolonged maintenance of vessels and facilities belonging to the fleet without observation of any environmental-protection technologies has produced catastrophic results.

As a result of uncontrolled activities of the Fleet's fuel depots, 7,700 hectares of land and 10 million cubic meters of subterranean water have been contaminated. Concentration of hazardous elements in the famous Sevastopol harbors exceeds recommended limits by 10 times, and in the vicinity of the fleet's fuel base—by 180 times.

The bottom of Sevastopol harbor is in sad shape. Its muck has accumulated almost 20,000 tonnes of oil products. Moors erected by Navy specialists who have been the Black Sea's unrestrained masters for decades, disrupted water exchange between the harbors and the sea and completely annihilated the ecological system.

The Black Sea Fleet's on-shore units, too, constitute a grave danger to the health of Sevastopol residents. Technological and everyday waste has been accumulating there for years, and the military command never cared about its utilization or dumping. Meanwhile, the technological burden imposed on the environment has had repercussions on the health of Sevastopol residents. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health Protection, death rates in the city have increased by three percent, while birthrates have gone down by 15.3 percent. The rate of respiratory ailments has increased by 12.6 percent.

To somehow improve the situation, oil products must urgently be removed from soil and subterranean aquifers; hazardous waste on the territories of military units must be disposed of or processed; and Sevastopol's water supply and sewage system must be rebuilt. The Ministry of Environmental Protection commission used the methodology of evaluating losses once accepted to assess damage done by the Soviet Army in East Europe. This produced a monstrous sum of $6.3 billion.

The commission suggested that this money be repaid by the future successors to the Black Sea Fleet, and that the procedure of payments to the local nonbudget environmental-protection funds involve Black Sea Fleet units and facilities. These proposals, however, remained a lone voice crying in the wilderness. Not only Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin, but also officials from his retinue, refused to receive commission members.

At present, while discussing the fate of the Fleet at the next round of negotiations, Ukraine must take into account the cost of all measures needed to eliminate the ecological consequences of the red-banner Fleet's stationing in the "bluest in the world" Black Sea. The total sum is $19.4 billion. The commission believes that the negotiators must, in particular, take into account the cost of the restoration of the ecological system in the area of the Fleet's stationing, as well as draft an international agreement that would include the commitments of the parties (including financial ones) regarding the elimination of pollution.

Yuriy Ruban, first deputy minister of environmental protection, has addressed the Supreme Council with a motion drafted on the results of the commission's activities, requesting that the legislature pays attention to another zone of ecological disaster.

Growth in Private Sector Noted

MM0908130294 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Chrystia Freeland: "The Tinkering Engineer Who Serves as the Symbol of Ukraine's Quiet Revival"]

[Text] Mr. Viktor Skuratovskyy, a former professor of mechanical engineering, is the sort of man who, were he an American, would spend his weekends tinkering in his garage and his weekdays parlaying his technical ingenuity into a growing business.

But Mr. Skuratovskyy was born in Ukraine and for the first five decades of his life his inventive drive earned him admonitions rather than rewards. In the 1980's he was dismissed from his job as an engineering professor because of his Ukrainian Catholic faith and he spent the rest of the decade struggling to produce surgical needles with his own unique process in the cramped basement of a Kiev hospital.

For Mr. Skuratovskyy things are at last starting to change. Ukraine's government is incompetent and its state sector largely moribund, but slowly opportunities are opening for private thinkers and tinkers. Without taking into consideration the fast-growing shadow economy, the private sector accounted for 30 percent of Ukraine's gross national product in the first quarter of this year.

That figure, and the expected continued growth of the private sector, is thanks to a new breed of businessmen like Mr. Skuratovskyy. Together with Mr. Andrii Smirnov, a former student, and Mr. Evhen Stychynskyy, a young lawyer, Mr. Skuratovskyy has found an American partner and American investors for his business. Their joint venture, Holnit, was due to begin production of surgical needles this summer and they hope by the end of the year to be up to capacity of 2 million needles a year.

The owners of Holnit have an engineer's scorn for the new biznesmeny who have capitalised on government connections, or muscle, or both, to earn instant fortunes

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by selling commodities at bargain prices and importing often shoddy Western consumer goods.

"Our principle, from the very beginning, has been not to engage in these easy trading operations," Mr. Smirnov says. "No matter what is happening now, we are convinced that eventually, any nation's economic strength is in manufacturing."

Ukraine has a vast manufacturing base, but, as in other former Soviet republics, in the past the country's technical expertise was almost exclusively devoted to the military sector. Holnit, and other small factories like it, are engaged in conversion by stealth.

The two massive lathes in Holnit's brand new workshop amazed the company's new American partners from Look, a Massachusetts-based producer of surgical needles. Purchased at cut-rate prices from cash-starved Ukrainian defence plants, the lathes, according to the Americans, are so sophisticated "you can make rockets with these things."

Mr. Skuratovskyy has fitted out his factory at a fraction of the price he would pay in the West thanks to the managers of military factories, once the Soviet Union's industrial elite, but now squeezed by the nearly bankrupt Ukrainian central government, who were delighted to earn money from equipment for which they no longer had any use.

Another advantage Holnit has over fledgling manufacturers in the West is a skilled populace, desperate to leave jobs in the collapsing state sector.

While Holnit is confident about the technical skills of its new workers, it demands a change in attitude.

"When people come in for a job interview, the first thing I tell them is that this is not a socialist workplace, it is the new Ukrainian capitalism," says Mr. Smirnov, the partner in charge of hiring. "There will be no trade unions and no Communist Party cells here. Those who work well will be well rewarded, those who don't will be fired."

Though Holnit's version of capitalism, Ukraine-style, promises to be far tougher than its Western counterpart, Mr. Skuratovskyy is grateful for the participation of his American partners. What Look and the Ukraine Fund, a US based venture capital fund which invests in small Ukrainian businesses, have contributed to Holnit is quality-control techniques, packaging, marketing expertise and capital. Holnit and its investors hope that with this combination of Ukrainian know-how and Western money, the company will be able to corner the market in the former Soviet Union, which has no indigenous large-scale manufacturer of surgical needles.

"Western aid has destroyed the market in Moscow and St. Petersburg," Mr. Skuratovskyy says. "Why pay for what you can get for free?" But he believes there is a huge, untapped market in Ukraine, provincial Russia and Central Asia where surgeons, unable to find the appropriate instruments, often resort to inadequately sterilised, inappropriate needles and sutures.

For the privilege of filling this needed gap in the Ukrainian market, Mr. Skuratovskyy and his partners have had to negotiate a Kafka-esque bureaucratic obstacle course. Everyone from the local fire department, to the tax inspectors to the civic administration must be, as Mr. Stychynskyy, the lawyer, delicately puts it, "taken into consideration".

And Holnit has it better than most Ukrainian companies because the country's favourable legislation on foreign investment allows Holnit, as a joint venture, to take a five-year holiday from punitive taxes which, if rigorously applied, can consume all of a company's profits.

Somehow, Mr. Skuratovskyy and his partners retain their confidence that they will manage to continue to circumvent their nation's administrative labyrinth. Even as construction workers were putting the finishing touches to their new workshop, they avidly described the really perfect factory they hoped to be able to build in five years' time.

And over coffee, Mr. Skuratovskyy is unable to resist the temptation to pull out a pen, take a napkin and illustrate his newest invention for an even better lathyroscopic needle.

Donbass Entrepreneur Hopeful About Future

MM1008130294 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 10 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Chrystia Freeland: "Hope Rises Amid the Nostalgia for Soviet Past"]

[Text] In many respects, Mariupol is the typical, botched result of Soviet central planning. Statues of Lenin in heroic poses still grace its main squares, the local telephone network is so dreadful that calling from Kiev is a day-long task, and the grimy yellow substance that comes out of the city's water taps is unfit to drink.

But, nearly three years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the centrally planned economy of which Mariupol was an integral part, a few elements have emerged in this dismal industrial city-scape which point the way to a new future.

Mariupol is in the Donbass, Ukraine's depressed industrial heartland which sent communist MPs to parliament in expression of its nostalgia for the Soviet past, but in recent mayoral elections the city voted for a wealthy young entrepreneur who prefers laissez-faire economics to Marxism-Leninism.

The Spartak, Mariupol's main hotel, is as grimy as they come in this part of the world, but its rickety balconies are spiky with the satellite dishes of western businessmen who need reliable contact with their headquarters in London, Frankfurt, Milan and New York.

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Even Azovstal, one of the biggest steel mills in the former Soviet Union and one of Mariupol's main employers, is jousting for its share in the world market rather than settling for the decline which appears to be the fate of most of the Soviet-era factories in the region.

In its efforts to adapt to the market, Azovstal, like most enterprises in Ukraine, has thus far found the central government to be more of a hindrance than a help. Mr. Oleksandr Bulianda, the plant's director, is not afraid to let the Kiev bureaucracy know exactly what he thinks about its management of the country.

When a deputy minister calls on the special, Soviet-era government telephone which looks out of place next to the high-tech gadgets on Mr. Bulianda's desk, he launches into a tirade: "This country is run more badly than a whore-house. At least in a whore-house there is order, here we have total chaos.

"I have metals traders from all over the world begging me to sign contracts with them but you idiots refuse to give me export quotas."

Last year, Azovstal, which Western metals companies rate as one of the best steel mills in the former Soviet Union, exported 1.5m tonnes of steel to customers outside the former Soviet Union. Mr. Bulianda expects to export 1.8m tonnes this year, slightly more than half Azovstal's total production.

Mr. Bulianda's main foreign partners are Germany's Klockner, Italy's Duferrco and two companies that operate mainly in the former Soviet Union, Metals Asia and AIOC.

But Mr. Bulianda's room for manoeuvre is restricted by the central government's administrative control over exports and prices.

"Fixed prices are a real stupidity," Mr. Bulianda complains. "The producer will never work at a loss. This system must have been dreamt up by some idiot, we don't even know who."

The restrictions have hit particularly hard at trade with Russia, traditionally Ukraine's main economic partner: In 1991, Azovstal shipped 700,000 tonnes of steel to Russia, this year 70,000, a drop Mr. Bulianda attributes mainly to the difficulty in securing export quotas for Russia.

Notwithstanding Mr. Bulianda's progressive attitude—he is described by the Western metals traders queueing at his door as "one hundred percent capitalist" and had the foresight to begin purchasing up-to-date Western equipment during the dying days of the Soviet Union—Azovstal is not finding the transition to the market entirely painless.

Azovstal is operating at only half capacity, which Mr. Bulianda attributes to the difficulty in purchasing fuel from Russia rather than to a lack of customers. Moreover, he says, the factory could comfortably lay off 7,000 of its 21,600 workers. But Mr. Bulianda ("I guess I'm still half socialist") refuses to sack any.

Within the next few months the factory, currently leased by its employees from the state, is to be privatised. Between 30 and 40 percent of the shares will be sold through a public offering and Mr. Bulianda hopes a Western investor, preferably one of the companies he already does business with, will buy a large bloc of these shares.

Although Mr. Bulianda predicts a struggle with the central government over privatisation, he may find his path clearer now that Ukraine has elected a new president and heads of regional government. President Leonid Kuchma has promised swift privatisation and Mariupol's new mayor, Mr. Mykhaylo Pozhyvanov, is a member of the Reform bloc in parliament, the most progressive political faction in the country.

Once an Azovstal employee, Mr. Pozhyvanov left the state mammoth to make his own way as a metals trader, founding a company whose turnover last year was $150m.

Mr. Pozhyvanov cheerfully admits that the election of a radical market reformer "is political nonsense in the communist Donbass", but he sees his victory as a sign that even in this, one of the most conservative regions of Ukraine, the nascent bourgeoisie is maturing into a political elite.

If Mr. Kuchma manages to implement the reforms Mr. Pozhyvanov supports, things will get worse in Mariupol before they get better. But Mr. Pozhyvanov is betting that even in the industrial Donbass there are enough factories like Azovstal, and enough new private businesses, to cushion the shock of the painful economic remedies he is lobbying the new government to administer.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Praises Yeltsin Meeting Results

LD1108062394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0453 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Minsk August 11 BELINFORM-TASS—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said in a televised midnight address to the Belarusian people that he counted on Russia for help to his republic.

The Belarusian president praised the results of his recent talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He stressed however that "Russia will not solve our problems for us".

Alyaksandr Lukashenka said the state of the republic was extremely difficult with the ailing economy, the crisis of confidence in the government, the moral crisis and lax discipline. He said work was nearing completion on a programme to pull the republic out of the crisis. The programme will be put before the parliament in September. The president asked his voters to muster patience for six or eight months during which all necessary measures will be implemented for the state of things to take a turn for the better.

As concerns Belarusia's relations with Russia, the Belarusian president noted that "many people wishing to spoil relations with Moscow have appeared lately". He made it clear that he was referring to those "have-beens" who is not a member of the new leadership, and warned that their actions "can have serious consequences" for themselves.

Aide Welcomes Outcome of Moscow Talks

MM1008114594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by Tatyana Polyakova: "Moscow-Minsk: Are We Delaying With the Ruble Zone?"]

[Text] Minsk—A press conference has been held at which Leonid Sinitsyn, chief of the Belarus president's staff, commented on the results of Alyaksandr Lukashenka's visit to Moscow. In his opinion, the sides discussed the whole spectrum of mutual problems and reached mutual understanding. During the visit the dynamics of relations between the two countries were preserved and made more constructive and concrete. Accords were secured in the sphere of credit, finance, and trade and economic agreements, and plans emerged for the creation of joint production units, which will make it possible to put to work Belorussian [Belarusian] enterprises that are currently standing idle and will provide Russia with output it needs.

Economic relations between Belarus and Russia, it was stressed at the press conference, are moving away from impracticable declarations and are being imbued with realism. A key element in the talks was the discussion of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, which is designed to consolidate the strategic course of developing friendly relations between the two countries.

Leonid Sinitsyn acknowledged that we have lagged behind as far as the pace of reform is concerned and thus the problem of creating a ruble zone cannot be interpreted as meaning that Belarus receives Russian rubles by some definite date. It involves the all-embracing problem of the consonance of the two economies and the two financial systems.

It was noted at the press conference that good psychological contacts were established during the visit in relations between the two presidents. In the Belorussian [Belarusian] side's opinion, this will also promote cooperation. The Belorussian leadership is looking forward optimistically to Boris Yeltsin's and Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Minsk, ahead of which several groups of experts are studying specific aspects of Belorussian [Belarusian]-Russian cooperation.

Moldova's Prime Minister Arrives for Working Visit

LD1008125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1218 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 10 TASS—Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli of Moldova arrived on Wednesday in Belarus on a working visit. Sangeli told reporters at the Minsk-2 airport that six items will be addressed at his talks with the Belarusian leadership, including the progress of accords which had been earlier made by Moldova and Belarus, removal of excises on exported alcohol and others.

Sangeli's visit started as his talks with Belarus Prime Minister Mikhalil Chyhir. The two-hour talks were attended by members of government delegations of Belarus and Moldova. Mikhail Chyhir expressed hope that the parties will come to a mutual understanding and the summit-level meeting will be useful for both.

Sangeli is to meet, later in the day, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, parliament chairman Mechyslaw Hryb and CIS executive secretary Ivan Korotchenya.

Lukashenka Hails Talks With Moldova

LD1008224794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1549 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 10 Aug—Today's talks and our mutual relations are distinguished by particular warmth. We

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understand each other. This is how Belorussian [Belarusian] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka described the Belorussian-Moldavian [Moldovan] talks, which are being held in Minsk today.

During the meeting between Moldavian Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli and the Belorussian leaders a number of problems relating to expanding Belorussian-Moldavian cooperation in the future was discussed. Among other things, the setting up of joint ventures, protection of investments, principles governing the clearance of payments, possibilities of establishing a passenger air link, and the opening of the Belorussian Embassy in Moldavia [Moldova] were under discussion.

During the meeting with the head of the Moldavian Government, the republic's President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said each side was bearing its burden of problems and responsibility, and expressed confidence that during the talks, solely as human beings, we will find a solution to these problems.

Commenting to a BELINFORM correspondent on his conversation with Sangheli, which lasted almost an hour, the president said Belorussia [Belarus] could learn a lot from Moldavia. He reproached the former leaders of the republic that at a time they had not accepted Moldavia's profitable proposals to supply to Belorussia vegetables, juices, tobacco, and other goods at low prices. As a result, in place of the state, commercial structures took the initiative and are now selling these goods on the Belorussian market at sky-high prices.

Speaking about the future of mutual relations between the two countries, Lukashenka said: I can see very good prospects for cooperation, providing it is put on a concrete foundation. I think it will be beneficial for both Moldavia and Belorussia. For example, if we need Moldavian tractors to cultivate beetroot and Moldavia needs Belorussian MTZ [Minsk Tractor Works] tractors, it would be sensible just to swap this equipment. Unfortunately, so far we have lacked responsibility, above all, on the part of Belorussia. Lukashenka said that in the future ministers would be subject to "tough accountability."

Lukashenka said that although Moldavia was owing some debt to Belorussia, the payment balance between the republics was normal. During the talks, the Moldavian side said it was ready to supply required products to Belorussia as its future debt repayments.

It is expected that this evening the foreign ministers of the two countries will sign the protocol on the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between Belorussia and Moldavia, signed on 21 December 1992 in Kishinev [Chisinau], and exchange the instruments of ratification.

Lukashenka, Nazarbayev Discuss Integration

LD1108104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Report by BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 11 Aug— President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is now on a visit to Kiev, Ukraine, had a telephone conversation on Thursday morning to discuss further integration of the Commonwealth member-countries and economic ties between Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The president of Kazakhstan spoke about his idea of a Euroasian Union and said that he saw the president of Belarus as "an ally and partner in joint efforts aiming to achieve close integration among the member-states of the commonwealth of independent countries".

It was also noted that economic relations between the two states were acquiring "special significance in connection with the considerable losses of crops as a result of drought in Belarus".

The presidents expressed the hope that economic contacts would intensify between both the two states and between individual enterprises, firms and companies.

Lukashenka Discloses Financial Statements to Press

WS1008114094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has disclosed his financial statements for publication in the press. According to the statements, the president does not possess property in the form of businesses, housing, and other real estate, or plots of land. Since 3 April 1985, the Lukashenka family has lived in the Ryzhkovichi settlement of Mogilev Oblast Shklovskiy rayon, in a kolkhoz-owned house with a total area of 55 square meters [words indistinct], surrounded by a 0.25-hectare plot of land. Lukashenka has been granted an office residence in Minsk for use during his term in office as president of the Republic of Belarus. While disclosing his financial statements, Alyaksandr Lukashenka emphasized that the property and incomes of the president and other senior officials will always be open for control. The publication of the statements gives various public associations, parties, and individuals the right to verify the accuracy of the data.

Lukashenka Suggests Repeal of Generals' Promotions

MM1108091394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belorussian President Declares His Income, Proposes Repealing Council of Ministers Decree on Award of Military Ranks. Alyaksandr Lukashenka Submits Income Declaration For Dissemination in the Mass Media"]

[Excerpts] Minsk—It is clear from this declaration that the Belorussian [Belarusian] president does not own

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property in the form of enterprises, housing, other real estate, or land. [passage omitted]

Here is another news item from the Belorussian Presidential Staff. Leonid Sinitsyn, leader of the staff, told this KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent that Alyaksandr Lukashenka has signed a directive "On the Repeal of Certain Belorussian Council of Ministers Decrees." Under this directive the republic's Cabinet of Ministers has been instructed to examine the question of repealing the former Council of Ministers decrees of 5 and 14 July on the award of military ranks "in connection with the breaching of existing legislation during their adoption." Those "affected" include Belorussian Deputy Defense Ministers Mikhail Stankevich and Anatoliy Sikora (who were both made lieutenant generals), as well as Sergey Kuznetsov, chief of the Defense Ministry's Educational Work Directorate, and Stanislav Knyazev, chief of the Belorussian Armed Forces' military counterintelligence, who were made generals for the first time.

Sinitsyn on Formation of Presidential Administration

WS1008132294 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 6 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with Leanid Sinitsyn, chief of the Belarusian presidential administration, by Svyatlana Kalinkina; place and date not given: "105 Subordinates for One Chief Is Enough"—first paragraph is NARODNAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] **The people are sick and tired of the word "apparatus." Apparatchiks, clerks, and bureaucrats are everywhere. What do the presidential authorities plan to do to comfort us? A BELINFORM correspondent has addressed this question to Leanid Sinitsyn, chief of the Republic of Belarus' presidential administration.**

[Sinitsyn] The Belarusian presidential administration will comprise 105 people. In comparison, Russia's administration numbers 3,500 people. Now, I will outline directions of our activities. One of the most important directions is the state-legal one. This comprises a wide range of issues concerning the principles of forming and establishing Belarusian statehood. Additionally, the president has resolved that the Economic Control Department should no longer be subordinated to the government, but directly to the state leader. Thus, control services are the second direction. They are responsible for overseeing the implementation of presidential edicts. Issues of cooperation with the regions are the third direction. They will be tackled by the Anticorruption Committee, the Directorate for Cooperation with the Regions, and the Directorate of Public, Political, and Social Information. Another link of the apparatus' work is record keeping.

As we begin to work, we intend to form an analytical center, which will draft edicts, analyze specific situations, and form general strategy and tactics for reforms conducted by the president.

Within the apparatus, there is also the Presidential Council and the National Security Council. Regarding the latter, it can be said that although it is a constitutional body, it belongs to the presidential administration.

[Kalinkina] Could you name specific people who are currently supervising these directions?

[Sinitsyn] Mikhail Sazonaw leads the Committee for Combating Corruption and, at the same time, acts as deputy chief of the administration. The Legal Directorate is led by a rather unknown man—Iosif Vilenta. He is a professional lawyer, and has previously worked in Grodno. The Record Keeping Directorate will be administered by Lyudmila Kazavaya, who has previously worked at the Control Chamber. The Directorate of Public and Political Information is headed by Alyaksandr Fyaduta, the Presidential Council State Secretariat—by Dzmitryy Bulakhaw, the National Security Council State Secretariat—by Viktar Sheyman. This is all that concerns leaders. They are now hiring their cadres.

[Kalinkina] What are the main principles of forming the presidential apparatus and the government?

[Sinitsyn] I would like to particularly emphasize that the president has already established a principle of forming a coalition government, which envisions that not personal qualities and political views but professionalism will come to the fore. The same can be said about the process of forming the presidential administration. We are hiring people of the so-called old-school; there is also a representative of the Party of People's Accord. I would like Belarusian Popular Front representative Alyaksandr Sasnow to oversee welfare issues.

[Kalinkina] Leanid Heorhiyevich, why has the president retained the most active members of his team. Perhaps it would be more reasonable to give them offices directly within the ruling bodies?

[Sinitsyn] People, who are able—in terms of their professional skills—to hold high posts in the executive branch, have either already assumed them, or will do so soon. This relates, for example, to Alyaksandr Lukashow, who has been appointed transportation minister. One must understand, however, that certain qualities are needed for an election campaign, and others—for everyday work. I am only convinced that people from the presidential team, who deserve high posts, will assume them.

[Kalinkina] It is currently impossible for a common man to be received by the president or you. Do you plan to continue this way of handling public relations?

[Sinitsyn] We understand that it is necessary to improve our public relations, since Alyaksandr Lukashenka has already received many letters requesting personal meetings with him. We are currently forming a department that will deal with this issue.

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[Kalinkina] When will the presidential administration be finally formed?

[Sinitsyn] I believe that we will manage to do that by the end of August.

CP Leader Advocates Unity With Russia

MM1008132194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 9 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Lyudmila Maslyukova: "Viktor Chikin: 'Banana Republics Are Not Sovereign Republics'"]

[Text] Belarusian Communist Party Secretary Viktor Valentinovich Chikin is convinced that the republic has only ever had one path to take, and that is a joint path with Russia.

From his point of view, having an unbreakable tie with its eastern neighbor was more important to Belarus than to any other republic in the former—unfortunately, as the Communist stresses—Soviet Union. The small, geographically European country had no objective chances of being integrated in the capitalism of the Western encirclement. It simply cannot afford to pay for the "permit" into it. What could it offer its partners in exchange for the right to become part of that system of the division of labor? Belarus has no raw materials. Its agricultural output is stamped "Made in Chernobyl." Its labor resources do not interest France, which has its own high unemployment rate, as indeed has all of Europe, and where the working day has already been reduced to four hours. Belarus can only offer a dozen worthwhile scientists, who have already successfully climbed over the border anyway. Apart from that, maybe some Belarusian beauties for European brothels or cheap labor for Germany instead of, say, the Turkish "eastern workers."

Great Russia is another matter.... According to Viktor Chikin, it has a real chance of turning into the raw materials appendage of the developed world.

That is why it was so important for the West to separate these two Slav countries, and indeed all the republics of the USSR. Hence the delight of the United States about the Belarusian or Russian "sovereignty." When plants stop in Belarus, markets for Western producers expand. The poorer-quality but cheaper television sets, tractors, and refrigerators bearing the Minsk brand name, for instance, do not present any competition to their goods. But Russia, which has been deprived of the mighty assembly shop which Belarusian industry constitutes, is finding it all the easier to switch to the sale of metal, timber, and petroleum—after all, enormous resources, as well as time, are needed in order to build its own equivalent capacities in terms of machine building, oil refining, and light industry complexes.

The situation has developed according to the scenario set by the foreign movie directors. The results of this policy, it seems, are obvious to even the most inexperienced people—after all, their standard of living has fallen sharply. The shopping basket of millions of families has become as meager as could possibly be. There are fewer and fewer domestic products and, instead, the workers are being offered expensive low-standard old stock in bright packaging. Western unmarketable products are being thrown onto the Eastern market under the guise of proper goods.

People are currently talking a lot about reviving the idea of the integration of previously united peoples. Well, it is better to come to your senses late than never—although an exorbitant price has already been paid for not understanding the disposition of true economic interests. Obviously, the pro-Western lobby in Russia and Belarus is stubbornly opposed to the rapprochement of the two countries. This can be traced particularly clearly in the example of the unification of the two countries' monetary systems. All that opposes integration within the CIS was displayed more clearly and specifically here.

One-and-a-half or two years ago, only the communists of the treacherously separated countries spoke about a confederation, federation, or a new form of union in the former USSR republics. But what was heard at the latest CIS summit? The recently "criminal" word "confederation" figured in the discussions!

Viktor Chikin believes that the tactics of the Belarusian Government, with the support of the Supreme Soviet, have made it possible to ensure a political breach through which the old painful inquiries, which came from the needs of real life, have gushed. Of course, the communist stresses, former Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich and his team would scarcely have managed to sign the agreement on a single ruble zone if the situation in Russia itself had not changed, and if the Duma in its present form had not appeared there.

At one time, the idea of sovereignty was put forward to the peoples, among other instruments of division, for the more successful collapse of the USSR. This bait, seasoned with the "pepper" of nationalism, has had its effect in the sphere of propaganda and politics: A lot of people sincerely believed that a country becomes independent as soon as this is announced in a declaration. However, real independence is the attribute of only a strong state. Belarus did not have economic independence before and it does not have it now, and consequently it is not independent at all as such. Banana republics are not sovereign republics. The closer a country, for example Russia itself, is to the "banana" ideal, the less the strong countries of this world reckon with it. How the republics of the former Union have been weakened—that can be discussed for hours, using figures, statistics, and data. But, Viktor Chikin worries, even now it is impossible to show a great many people, with the help of reasonable arguments, how the grand tragedy of the present crisis was deliberately played out on the historical stage.

The peoples, this leader of the Belarusian communist movement believes, are starting to vaguely guess that something is wrong.

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It is true, he said, that it is extremely difficult to get rid of your doubts when you observe, for example, the Bosnian conflict, and you can see with your own eyes the role of the United States, and Russia's pitiful role.... If that is what the great eastern neighbor looks like, then what will the role of tiny Belarus, with its ruined industry, be tantamount to?

The separated peoples and republics will ultimately realize that only unity will save them.

Nationalist Party Leader Presents Platform

WS1008113994 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 4 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian Party of Freedom Chairman Syarhey Vysotski by Liliya Hrynyavetskaya; place and date not given: "Who Is on the Right Flank?"—first paragraph is CHYRVONAYA ZMENA introduction]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] When something new appears, it is better to learn about it than hide one's head in the sand like an ostrich out of fear or dismay. Thus, here is the first phenomenon—Belarusian nationalism and the Belarusian Party of Freedom [BPS]. Our interlocutor is BPS Chairman Syarhey Vysotski, a 23-year-old political expert.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Syarhey, your party is an extreme right-wing organization.

[Vysotski] The difference between extreme right-wing and right-wing forces is a rather complex matter. In my opinion, the "Right Revenge" and the "Gray Wolves" youth union are extreme right-wing organizations. By the way, they are emerging like mushrooms after rain, and I believe that the right flank will develop. We are one of the most right-wing organizations and, I believe, the most active. I hope this fact will not intimidate other right-wing parties, which, aside from statements, have not manifested themselves. We are a party of action, and this was confirmed by our protests held near the CIS headquarters, the German Embassy, and in other places. A Western equivalent of our party is the German Republican Party, which serves as a bridge between those who take to the streets and other political spectra.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Our society has never displayed much support for nationalists. In general, can there be anything constructive in dividing people according to nationalistic principles?

[Vysotski] I do not accept the word "nationalist," and I never use it. There are simply people who are indifferent toward their fatherland, and those who are concerned about it. I would like to point out that a nationalist movement which advocates external aggression is rather chauvinistic. Still, if people want that, they can term us nationalists. We believe that it is better for Belarusians to be led by nationalists than by refugees from Saratovsk and Tambov Provinces, as is currently the case. It is ridiculous to believe that Russians will care more about problems of Belarusians than "nationalists," who are fanatically devoted to the Belarusian idea.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Your slogans—for example, "Russian invaders get out of Belarus!"—are hardly contributing to your popularity or the expansion of your ranks.

[Vysotski] The underlying cause of such slogans is the incredible oppression of all that is Belarusian. This is only a manifestation of force in response. As a rule, when there is such oppression, a multiplied force appears. We believe that Belarus is an occupied country, in which foreign troops rule, property does not belong to the people, and there are less than 40 percent Belarusians within the authorities. This is a disastrous figure. The extermination of our nation continues. In any case, there should be no less than 60 percent of indigenous people in ruling bodies. Last year, 200 new members joined our ranks. These are well-organized people, on whom one can count. Returning to your question, I would like to say that we understand that we will never be very popular, but we can attract as much as 10 percent of the people. Regarding Russians, the point is not that we hate them, but that we are a party of and for Belarusians.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Does that mean there are only Belarusians in your party?

[Vysotski] We term Belarusians all sons and daughters of Belarus, and the point is not nationality but self-identification. Our ideology is nationalistic and popular. Our party comprises workers, students, and entrepreneurs. In general, these are young men.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Do you have uniforms?

[Vysotski] We do not. We do not have paramilitary units either. We propose, however, that physically strong people join our ranks. It is better to protect one's fatherland than rape girls.

[Hrynyavetskaya] What is your party's attitude toward forceful methods in politics?

[Vysotski] We will not be releasing blatant statements or appeals. We prefer such methods as rallies and protest marches. I would like to say, however, that we do not like the sophistication and softness demonstrated by the Belarusian Popular Front.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Will you run in the parliamentary elections?

[Vysotski] Of course.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Does your platform also include an economic program?

[Vysotski] Our party is oriented toward a market economy and Belarusian national business. Ask any Latvian businessman for what he works. He will answer: For Latvia. In Belarus, few people do business for Belarus. Everybody works for themselves and, as a rule, for Belarus' loss. Among our potential allies we see

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Germany and Croatia. The latter is in a situation similar to ours, and Germany could assist our statehood, because they owe us a moral debt.

[Hrynyavetskaya] How is your party financed?

[Vysotski] By its members. We have also established certain contacts with Belarusian businessmen.

[Hrynyavetskaya] Thank you for the interview.

Germans Monitor Military Hardware Destruction

WS1008123894 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Within the framework of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, a German inspection group has arrived in Belarus to fix the completion of a calendar period of military equipment destruction and the beginning of a new one at the Borisov tank repair works. According to information received from the National Agency for Control and Inspections at the Ministry of Defense of Belarus, during its visit, which will last until 12 August, the group also intends to check up the Belarusian side's strict observance of the technology of military equipment destruction. For the last calendar period—from 30 June to 10 August—99 tanks and 48 combat infantry vehicles were scrapped at the works.

Moldova

Accord on 14th Army Withdrawal 'Finalized'

AU1008181994 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Corneliu Popa dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] At the end of the Moldovan-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, a basic agreement on the legal status, order, and deadline for the withdrawal of the 14th Army, which is temporarily deployed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, was finalized in Chisinau today. The document stipulates a three-year deadline from the signing of the agreement for the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Moldova. The delegation also endorsed two other agreements: On the transport of the Russian troops and military hardware and on flights by Russian troops and their usage of the Tiraspol airport.

The representatives of the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, who participated in the negotiations, expressed their disagreement with certain provisions of the agreements signed and withdrew from the talks.

At the end of the 10th round of Moldovan-Russian talks, the head of the Moldovan delegation, Nicolae Osmotescu, made the following exclusive statement to our radio station:

[Begin Osmotescu recording] I consider this as a success, given the fact that we have made practically no headway whatsoever over the past two years of negotiations—actually, we have lost all sense of the passage of time. Finally, we managed to lay a legal basis which allows us to move forward. In other words, it will allow us to begin the implementation of the withdrawal of the armed forces from the Republic of Moldova. [end recording]

[Popa] The deadline agreed upon is for three years but some time will still pass before the accord is signed by the respective governments.

[Begin Osmotescu recording] I hope that (?it will take) only as much time as it takes us to prepare the written documents and submit them to the government for endorsement. I hope that this will be achieved in the first months of next fall. [end recording]

14th Army To Become 'Peacekeeping' Force

AU1008084994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 3/8/1994—Yesterday, a commission of 9 military experts, headed by Lieutenant General Eduard Vorobyev, arrived in Dniester from Moscow. This morning, Vorobyev chaired a meeting at the 14th Army Command. Major General Yuriy Cherakov, 14th Army deputy commander, announced that by September 1, 1994 the General Staff will be reorganized and the 14th Army will be transformed on the basis of the motorized infantry division No. 59 into a so-called "contingent of frontier-guard troops of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces."

BASA learned this from 14th Army Command sources who wished to remain anonymous. According to unofficial data, it seems that General Aleksandr Lebed will be dismissed. As a result, a group of 15 Tiraspol City Soviet deputies met with representatives of the Moscow commission to demand that General Lebed be left in charge of the 14th Army. General Vorobyev replied he cannot change the directive of Russian Defence Minister Grachev, whose directives he will further follow in the negotiations with Moldova on the 14th Army withdrawal. Sources from Tiraspol relay that due to Lebed's dismissal, city inhabitants are in panic whereas Lebed's primary rival, Igor Smirnov, seems to be celebrating a great victory.

Tiraspol Commander Confirms Lebed's Dismissal

AU1008100894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 3/8/1994—14th Army Commander General Aleksandr Lebed, currently on vacation, will not return to Tiraspol, declared to BASA Tiraspol Garrison Commander Mikhail Bergman. This was announced in a meeting with the command by Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, who arrived yesterday from Moscow as head of a commission composed

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of nine military experts. "The dismissal of General Lebed is nothing but a retaliation against him, to the joy of Igor Smirnov," added Bergman.

Dniester Industrial Production in Decline

AU1008100994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 3/8/1994—In July, the industrial production in Dniester has declined by 50 percent compared to the same period of 1993, states an analysis quoted by the Tiraspol radio station. In May, the rate of decline was 17 percent. The local observers gauge that these official figures illustrate the continuing paralysis of the local industry. According to statistics, during the first six months of 1994 the industrial production diminished by 17.4 percent. A substantial decrease in output is being observed in the machine-building industry as well as in the furniture factories. Statistics indicate that labour productivity decreased by 15 percent compared to the same period of 1994. In the first half of this year Dniester industry produced goods of mass consumption worth 600 billion Dniester rubles, which is 180 billion less than during the same period of 1993.

Deputy Minister on Dniester Currency Issue

LD1008192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Moldova's First Deputy Economics Minister Anatol Gudim described Transdniestria's introduction of its own currency as a political rather than economic step.

In an interview with Interfax, he said that economically the new currency, to come into use in Moldova's independently-minded Russian-speaking enclave on September 1, was not very different from the "ersatz money," old-type Soviet and Russian rubles issued between 1961 and 1992, that the region has used up till now. The purpose of its introduction is "to demonstrate another principle of sovereignty," Gudim said. But the monetary independence of the province, which has proclaimed itself the Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic, is very relative, he said, adding that the Moldovan leu is firmly established in the region.

On Tuesday 120 tonnes of newly-printed 500-ruble notes were delivered to Tiraspol. According to some sources, the notes, bearing a picture of 18th-century Russian Field-Marshal Aleksandr Suvorov, came from Moscow's Goznak factory.

Agrarians' Chief D. Mocpan Interviewed

MM1108102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Dumitru Mocpan, chairman of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova, by Svetlana Gamova in Chisinau; date not given: "A Situation in Which a Neighbor Menacingly Shakes His Fist Does not Suit Kishinev [Chisinau]"—first four paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Though supported by most of the population, especially by the rural population, the Moldovan Constitution which has just been adopted has nonetheless prompted grumbling among the intelligentsia and has galvanized circles oriented toward Moldova's unification with Romania. By advancing the proposition that the Republic of Moldova is an independent state whose official language is Moldovan (not Romanian), the Constitution has put an end to the question of the unification of two Romanias. In addition, it has guaranteed Dniester regions and the Gagauz south the opportunity to obtain special political status.

This clear definition of the position irritated the Romanian side, which delivered a statement promising support for the opposition.

The Agrarians—and all three of Moldova's top leaders represent the interests of this very party—find themselves in the position of a "little brother" trying to escape the patronage of his big brothers: Romania in the west and Russia in the east in the form of its military contingent in the Dniester region.

I discuss the situation in the republic with Dumitru Mocpan, chairman of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova and first deputy chairman of the republic parliament.

[Gamova] Mr. Chairman, what is your reaction to the Romanian side's statement?

[Mocpan] In meaning and spirit the statement is nothing but direct interference in Moldova's internal affairs. Especially as it was made at government level. It is no secret that certain Romanian circles still have hopes associated with Moldovan territory. Ion Solcan, deputy chairman of the Romanian Senate, once told me bluntly that he considers Moldova to be Romanian soil. Increasingly often our "big brother" is shaking his fist at us. Now he is again stating that he intends to support the opposition of the unitarist persuasion.

Our party's position is this: We cannot join Romania or Russia or Ukraine. Moldova has the right to exist as an independent state and intends to stay neutral, remaining outside any political or military blocs.

The introduction of Romanian as a main subject in schools was a violation of the law on languages and a consequence of an instruction from the former education minister, a People's Front member. Others would also like to impose their own order in Moldova. The main "heroes of the struggle for independence," such as former Prime Minister Druc, the poets Grigoriy Vieru and Leonid Lari, now live in Romania and are trying to govern us from there.

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The debate on the draft constitution went on for two years. Those who did not like the article concerning the granting of [special] status to the Dniester region and southern regions refused to sign it. This article expresses the opinion of most Moldovan people, who want peace to be finally established on our soil and every nationality to be protected by the constitution.

[Gamova] The opposition regards the constitutional enshrinement of the possibility of granting special status to the two regions as a direct route to the republic's federalization....

[Mocpan] Personally I am against federalization. But the republic's integrity must be preserved. All the preconditions for its reunification are now present: They are the creation of separate economic zones with special status. At the same time the following positions must remain unshakable: Border unity, budgetary unity, and constitutional unity.

[Gamova] People in the Dniester region are unlikely to agree to this. What then?

[Mocpan] The solution is to hold a referendum in the region. If its leaders do this it would give them a reference point. As far as I know the majority would favor a united republic.

[Gamova] Were it not for the 14th Army I think the question of a separate republic would not have been raised in the Dniester region. Does that mean that the disbandment of the 14th Army command coincides with Moldova's interests?

[Mocpan] If the decision adopted by the Russian Defense Ministry is going to facilitate the withdrawal of the army stationed in the Dniester region, that is one thing. That coincides with our wish. Deadlines can be stipulated such that this process goes smoothly and housing is constructed for military personnel and their families. We favor such a solution to the question. But if the headquarters alone are disbanded and the colors [znamya] withdrawn, while equipment remains on Dniester region territory, this could lead to unfortunate results. As commander, General Lebed had a clear position regarding the nonrepitition of an armed conflict. There were moments when the likelihood of provocations was high, but it was thanks to him that this likelihood was reduced to nothing. I think the Russian leadership is considering all possibilities and will make the correct decision.

[Gamova] As far as is known the question of the withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from Moldovan territory could be raised at the fall parliamentary session. There will be no 14th Army, the peacekeepers will leave, and two armies will be left to face each other—the Moldovan and Dniester Region Armies....

[Mocpan] Peacekeeping forces are not used for fighting. They must observe whether agreements are being violated. It is inadvisable to have as many of them as there are now. But the peacekeeping forces cannot be completely removed either. Any provocation and each side will defend itself by accusing the other. Therefore it is a question of numbers, of halving the peacekeeping contingent.

I think peace in Moldova monitored by the United States and Russia will be preserved. A new conflict would mean new hotbed in Europe, and new pretensions to repartitioning territories.

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Kazakhstan

Turkey To Train 20-25 'Experts' for Kazakh Military

LD1008123694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1032 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Turkey will train 20-25 experts for Kazakhstan's air, naval, and ground forces, the department of international treaties and external contacts of the Defence Ministry reports. The Kazakh Defense Ministry official said all training will be financed by Turkey. Twenty-three Kazakhs underwent military training in Turkey in 1993 and another 26 cadets are being trained there now.

The Kazakh Defense Ministry believes that his country's army has no need for closer cooperation with the Turkish army in science or engineering.

"We don't have a military science of our own yet. As for equipment, Kazakhstan receives it from Russia and it is considerably different from Turkish military hardware," the Defense Ministry official said.

Kazakhstan plans to "closely study the experience of the Defense Ministry of a friendly country (Turkey) in the defense field," the official said.

Tajikistan

Supreme Council Statement on Inter-Tajik Talks

LD1008172194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Council has adopted a decision on the report by the head of the Tajik Government delegation on the results of the two rounds of inter-Tajik talks that says:

The presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Council, having heard the report by Shukurjon Zuhurov, head of the Tajik Government delegation, on the results of the two rounds of inter-Tajik talks held in Moscow and Tehran, stresses that the talks were held with the help of and under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of observers from the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the special envoy of the UN secretary general attended the talks as the main mediator who made many efforts to achieve the ultimate aim of the talks.

The main aspect of the talks was the recognition by both sides of the need to resolve disagreements between the Tajiks by political means. The agenda of the talks was determined for all rounds of talks and a joint statement by both sides to refrain from all operations that would complicate the process of the resumption of talks. A protocol was signed to create a joint commission on resolving issues concerning refugees and forced migrants of Tajikistan. Similarly, agreement was reached on the draft of an agreement on cease-fire and other hostile operations for the duration of the talks.

Regardless of the fact that desirable results have not been achieved during the two rounds of inter-Tajik talks, the talks have been useful and have made clear the position of both sides to the world public.

With the aim of achieving national reconciliation as soon as possible, ensuring peace and security in Tajikistan, and the stage-by-stage solution of issues raised during inter-Tajik talks, the presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

1) The report by the head of the Republic of Tajikistan Government delegation on the results of the two rounds of inter-Tajik talks be taken into consideration.

2) The inter-Tajik talks are to be continued as the most important means of the peaceful solution of existing arguments and achievement of national reconciliation.

3) The Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Council Committee on Legislation, Law and Order and Human Rights should prepare the draft of a decree by the presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan on amnesty for the participants of political events and the civil war before the start of the third round of inter-Tajik talks and propose it to the presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan Supreme Council.

4) In order to make fruitful the final result during the third round of inter-Tajik talks the level of the Republic of Tajikistan Government delegation be raised.

5) The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, other ministries and departments, the executive committees of the soviet of people's deputies of oblasts, towns, and rayons should adopt additional measures on the implementation of the law of the Republic of Tajikistan and forced migrants and for the speedy repatriation of refugees and forced migrants to their permanent places of residence, their settlement, ensuring their security and returning homes to their rightful owners.

[Signed] Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Minister: Government Has Means To Control Situation

LD1008123294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0950 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Video report in Tajikistan by Correspondent Mikhail Nikulin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

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[Text] The Tajikistan Government forces continue to carry out military actions to neutralize the opposition armed formations in the foothills of the Pamir mountains and in areas adjacent to Garm region. According to military intelligence, several armed groups of up to 1,000 people in total are hiding in the mountains.

[Shishlyannikov] Having occupied the heights, armed formations are using mortars, multiple rocket launchers, and snipers equipment for aimed fire—and recoilless weapons, too.

[Nikulin] Dushanbe is full of rumors that a large-scale offensive on the capital of Tajikistan is being planned.

[Shishlyannikov] I think these rumors are being spread to destabilize the situation. The government has sufficient forces and means to keep the situation under control and to prevent any kind of large-scale offensives or invasions by armed formations.

Election Bodies To Gather Candidate Signatures

LD1008182994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 153; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Committee for Presidential Elections decided to form organizing groups at local government bodies to collect signatures in support of presidential candidates.

Under the committee resolution the groups should be registered by the local government bodies and collect signatures among eligible Tajik citizens living in their territories. Special forms will be used listing the name and social security number of a person as well as his or her signature.

The campaign will last till 28 August. The results shall be recognized by protocols and verified by local governments after which the documents will be sent to the Central Electoral Commission where they should arrive by 1600 28 August.

A candidate needs the signatures of at least 5% of the electorate or 133,000 to be nominated.

So far the only officially nominated candidate is the ambassador to Russia and former prime-minister Abdumalik Abdullojanov.

Many observers believe that the readiness of leaders of several regions, Gorno-Badakhshan in particular, to support Abdullojanov increases his chances compared to the present head of state Emomali Rakhmonov. Still most experts are convinced that Rakhmonov is a serious rival of the former prime-minister. In addition to the two evident favorites the other potential candidates are the deputy speaker of parliament Abdulmajid Dostiyev and Saifiddin Turayev, 40, who was acting deputy speaker two years ago and is a leading businessman today.

Presidential elections are scheduled for 25 September. On that day a referendum on the new constitution should also be held in keeping with a parliamentary resolution.

The decision has been criticized by the opposition as well as the world community.

The deputy head of the CSCE mission in Dushanbe Daria Fane called it undemocratic. She said the constitution should be adopted first, and presidential elections held later on its basis. She stressed that presidential elections are premature, at least before the third round of inter-Tajik talks.

CSCE officials say the fact that Tajik leaders are planning elections for autumn indicates that they do not take the elections seriously.

Fane did not rule out the possibility that a civil war might break out again or the confrontation between regions might deepen after the elections.

In her opinion, elections are a democratic step, but the leadership is clearly determined to fully control the process. Fane thinks that at the moment stability is preferable than democracy because democracy is possible only in conditions of stability.

Russian Border Guard Headquarters Shelled

LD1108095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Dushanbe August 11 (ITAR-TASS)—One of cordons of the 12th post of the Tajikistan-based Moscow border troops headquarters was shelled with missiles from Afghan territory late on Wednesday [10 August], ITAR-TASS was told on Thursday by Dushanbe's Russian military sources.

The Russian border guards returned fire to suppress the Afghan missile launcher emplacement.

On the same day guards of the 12th post of the Khorog headquarters blocked an attempted inroad of a small Afghan group into Tajikistan.

The Russian servicemen reported no casualties in either incident.

Turkmenistan

Velayati Visits Turkmenistan, Meets Niyazov

LD1108102894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The country's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov this morning and submitted a written message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

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According to a special correspondent from the Central News Unit in Ashgabat, Niyazov expressed the deep interest of the Turkmen Government and people for the expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking of the common history of the two countries, he called for greater cooperation between Tehran and Ashkhabad in the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the use of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation in Central Asia [as heard].

Decree Clarifies Use of Niyazov's 'Turkmenbashi' Title

MM1108090594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Bushev: "What's In a Name?"]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat]—Deputies from the Turkmen Assembly intend to express the nationwide love for the country's leader for the umpteenth time. To this end a draft decree entitled "On the Use of the Turkmen President's Title in the Mass Media When Translated From Turkmen Into Other Languages" has been drawn up.

The document will possibly be without precedent in the history of the Commonwealth, and the reason for its emergence is a weighty one. In the deputies' opinion, the mass media (most often the Russian media), "are taking a lot of liberties in using the meritorious title of 'Turkmenbashi'—leader of the Turkmen people." Russian journalists translate this word either as "leader of all the Turkmens" or as "chief of all the Turkmens"—which distorts the sense of "this great title that has been bestowed by the entire Turkmen people on their son." With a view to standardizing the written form and translation of the word "Turkmenbashi" the following version has been draw up: "In particular, when translated into Russian, the title must invariably be translated as 'Turkmen Bashi,' which corresponds to the concepts of 'head of the Turkmens' or 'president of Turkmenistan'; the use of the title in the form 'Bashi Saparmurad Niyazov' instead of 'President Saparmurad Niyazov' is permissible."

Since the rather too free-and-easy Russian press might simply ignore this coming decree from the Turkmen Assembly—just as it is ignoring the Turkmen form "Ashgabat" (using the old form, "Ashkhabad")—sanctions have been stipulated for those who systematically distort the president's title: A cash fine and loss of the right to obtain information through Turkmen state channels.

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Iran's Velayati Discuss Ties, Regional Peace

LD1008154994 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Tashkent, Aug 10, IRNA—President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan and visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday [10 August] discussed Tehran-Tashkent cooperation within ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and the need to maintain peace and calm in the region.

Referring to the religious, cultural and historical bonds shared by the two countries, President Karimov said the Islamic Republic has always been a pioneer in establishing peace and tranquility in central Asia.

He said the Islamic Republic, thanks to the leadership of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and policies of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, now enjoys a high status in the world.

The Uzbek president called for expansion of mutual ties particularly within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and for cooperation between the two countries in establishing peace in the region.

Velayati in response said the Islamic Republic attached great importance to the security and stability in central Asia and Caucasia as is evident in its peace efforts in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Velayati Meets Leaders, Departs

LD1108103494 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayti met Erkin Khalilov, acting Uzbek Supreme Soviet chairman yesterday. [passage omitted].

On the same day, Velayati met Otkir Sultanov, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign economic relations at the Uzbek Council of Ministers. Sultanov spoke to the guest about the economic developments taking place in our country. During the talks the question of further strengthening mutual economic ties was discussed. Mohammad Hashemi-Golpayegani, Iran's ambassador to Uzbekistan, participated in the talks. The visit of the Iranian foreign minister to our country ended today.

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Armenia

Statement Issued on Ter-Petrosyan-Clinton Talks

LD1008162494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 10 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 10 Aug—U.S. President Bill Clinton and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who is in Washington on an official visit, have discussed bilateral relations and regional and international problems. They agreed to continue their efforts toward establishing peace and security in the Caucasian region. This is said in a joint statement on the results of the meeting between the two presidents that took place in the White House on Tuesday. The press service of the Armenian president circulated the text of the document today.

The statement says that the heads of both states noted the necessity of a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. In this connection, it reaffirmed the importance of work carried out via the CSCE Minsk group.

The United States is ready to help Armenia in overcoming the obstacles on the way to economic reforms. Clinton and Ter-Petrosyan agreed that stability in Armenia and the republic's adherence to economic transformations are an important contribution to the cause of stability in the Caucasian region.

The interlocutors agreed to work jointly to encourage trade and investments, the statement says. A number of agreements have been signed in this sphere.

Karabakh Official on Status of Shusha, Lachin

NC1008194194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1605 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Stepanakert, August 10 (SNARK)—The problem of bringing dividing forces into the zone of Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict can not be connected with withdrawal of Karabakh Defence Army's units from Shusha and Lachin, upon which the Azerbaijani side insist. SNARK was told about it by the Masis Mailyan, head of the Karabakh Foreign Ministry's Department on International Organizations, in connection with yesterday's report of "INTERFAX" from Baku about the readiness of Azerbaijan to agree with location of Russian troops with the CSCE's mandate in the zone and to finance them, if Armenian forces leave Shusha and Lachin.

First of all, according to Mailyan, Shusha city is on the territory of Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh and the demand about withdrawal of troops from this city seems absurd.

As to Lachin, which is under the control of Karabakh forces, according to him, this problem can be discussed only under the condition of final settlement of the conflict and with existence of guarantees of non-renewal of military actions because the Lachin humanitarian corridor is the only road linking Karabakh with external world.

Opposition Rallies Part of 'Normal Political Process'

MM1008125194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by correspondent Valeriy Aydinyan under the "Conflict" rubric: "Rally Criticizes President"]

[Text] Yerevan—Yerevan has not seen such rallies since, certainly, 1988: A powerful movement for democratic changes has been launched under Karabakh slogans. Admittedly, Theater Square has seen not the 500,000 people gathered in those years but 50,000-60,000. However, given the state in which society finds itself, the figure is huge—the political activity curve has soared dramatically.

Even the organizers themselves—the National Democratic Union, whose leaders constitute one of parliament's biggest factions—did not expect such success. These are figures who split from the ruling Armenian National Movement and went into opposition. They include former Prime Minister and former Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan and members of the Presidium and chairmen of commissions of the Supreme Council. Ashot Manucharyan, former internal affairs minister and former chief adviser to the president of the republic on national security issues, is also participating in the rallies. His brilliant oratorical skills and deep knowledge of the authorities' behind-the-scenes activity make him especially dangerous to the leadership.

What, then, is the cause of the recent events and what objective is being pursued by the new movement's organizers? The conviction is coming to the fore in society that the country has lost its democratic way and that the features of a police dictatorship are becoming increasingly obvious. The name of Internal Affairs Minister Vano Siradegyan, who has essentially become the number two state official, has not been off the newspaper pages for several months now. According to some assessments, he has long been operating outside the control of the president and even dictates his will to him. This is a contentious issue, but it is a fact that the all-powerful minister gives orders not just in his own domain.

It has to be said, however, that it is not the internal affairs minister but the president himself who has become the number one object of criticism of late. Both the rally participants and the press note that Vano Siradegyan is merely the agent of President Ter-Petrosyan's will. Ashot Manucharyan has gone further, claiming that a series of well-known figures have been murdered on the president's direct orders. You would think that such a grave charge would have the impact of a bombshell in the presidential palace, but the president stays silent.

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Incidentally, not so long ago Moscow sociologists conducted a poll of former Soviet citizens temporarily resident in Moscow and the greater Moscow region. Around 1,500 Armenians were polled. Ninety-five percent of them expressed the intention to return home in time, while the majority cited the anarchy of the law-enforcement agencies as the reason for their leaving. Many noted the lack of prospects for entrepreneurial activity, also due to a large extent to the militia's "taxation policy."

The most serious political forces, those capable of taking office, regard close relations with Russia as a foreign policy priority. They all favor integration with their former Soviet Union partners. There are virtually no disagreements over the Karabakh issue. And on the whole, with just a few differences of detail, they are all ready to continue pursuing economic reforms designed to create market relations.

Both the National Democratic Union and the other opposition parties intend to operate within the law, to achieve the adoption of a constitution capable of establishing clear demarcation among the branches of power, to hold early parliamentary elections, and to create a government of national accord. It only remains to be hoped that the authorities will not artificially exacerbate the situation. Otherwise, a normal political process will turn into bloody confrontation, which is no good to the authorities or the opposition, let alone the people.

Georgia

Talks Continue on Peacekeeping Operations in Abkhazia

LD1008153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] In the Georgian village of Rukhi, western part of the republic, on Wednesday military officials from Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia and UN observers are discussing the course of the peacekeeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, including the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Kodori Gorge in Abkhazia.

Interfax has learned from sources in Tbilisi and Sukhumi that the conference will be attended by Georgian Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze, Chief of Staff of Abkhazia's Armed Forces Sergey Dbar, Commander of Peacekeeping Forces Vasiliy Yakushev, as well as Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev and Deputy Chief of Russia's General Staff Vladimir Zhurbenko.

Abkhazia's Defense Ministry says that prior to the conference Yakushev, Zhurbenko and Dbar, accompanied by Georgian Army representatives, will visit the village of Azhara in Kodori Gorge to examine the departure of Georgian troops from the area.

According to unconfirmed data, Wednesday morning Kondratyev held talks with the Abkhaz leader, Vladislav Ardzinba, in Sukhumi.

Abkhazia's Deputy Defense Minister Aslan Kobakhia told Interfax that information available to his ministry does not support Tbilisi's reports about all Georgian troops having been withdrawn from the Kodori Gorge.

Abkhazia Says Georgia Keeping Troops in Kodor Gorge

LD1108102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow August 11 (TASS)—Georgian troops and armoured vehicles are in the Kodor Gorge, press service of Abkhazian Supreme Soviet quoted Sultan Sosnaliyev, the republic's defence minister, as saying on Thursday.

"The reports about pull-out of Georgian armed detachments from the Kodor Gorge do not correspond to reality. At present, neither armed groups, nor armoured vehicles are withdrawn from there," Sosnaliyev said.

"The Georgian party has been tarrying with implementation of clause number four of the agreement of May 14, 1994 which provides for demilitarization of the mountainous region. The deadline for Georgian troops pull-out from the Kodor Gorge expired on July 30," he added.

A total of 600-700 Georgian soldiers and officers and over 20 armoured vehicles are still in the Kodor Gorge now, Sosnaliyev specified.

Agenda for Emergency Parliament Session Viewed

LD1008175394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] It is now known Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze's parliamentary majority ended a behind-the-scenes meeting on Tuesday by deciding to call an emergency session of parliament on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Shevardnadze himself.

In the meantime, opposition parties which collected the required number of signatures for calling the emergency session demand that the question of Shevardnadze's resignation as head of state and parliament be placed on the agenda. He is accused of the country's economic collapse and conducting defeatist policies in respect of the Abkhaz conflict.

However, the agenda is to be set by the collegium of senior parliamentary officials under the resolution adopted by the parliamentary majority. Local observers do not rule out that the collegium may drop the question

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of government reorganization, something that the opposition is insisting on. Nor do they expect the session to be called at all because of a lack of quorum.

One of the leaders of the united Republican Party Nodar Natadze has doubts about the session being called on Friday. "The Shevardnadze-led majority will certainly derail it", he told Interfax. And he accused the authorities of forcing a break up of parliament until later next month with the sole aim of averting criticism of their capitulatory policies.

"We will mount a nationwide protest if we are cheated again", leader of the National Democratic Party Iraqli Tsereteli told Interfax (Tsereteli had recently ended a 22 day hunger strike - IF).

The ruling majority also discussed the country's energy crisis with Shevardnadze calling to mobilizing all resources to keep the industry going. He held out promises of minimal energy and food supplies in the coming winter.

In a recent appeal to the leaders of 12 European Union countries, Shevardnadze asked for food and fuel aid to Georgia He also ordered to vest wider authority on the newly-established coordinating emergency commission. This will handle questions ranging from political and economic stabilization, tighter law and order, coordinated effort by the defence, security and police forces, conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia and other issues relating to the head of state's area of responsibility.

The commission is led by Shevardnadze himself, with Jaba Ioseliani appointed as his first deputy.

Sigua, Kitovani Call For Shevardnadze's Resignation

LD1008195994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Members of parliament Tengiz Kitovani and Tengiz Sigua held a news conference today. [passage omitted]

Sigua expressed a sharply negative attitude toward the Russian peacekeeping mission in Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

The discussion also touched upon the scandal concerning the National Bank's money and credit policy and many other sensational issues. Sigua and Kitovani had one solution to all of the problems: the resignation of the head of state. [passage omitted]

Former Premier, Defense Minister View Situation

LD1008162094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tengiz Sigua [former prime minister] and Tengiz Kitovani [former defense minister], members of the Georgian Parliament held a news conference in Tbilisi today.

Sigua spoke about the beginning of the war in Abkhazia. He noted that just prior to the outbreak of the conflict, the head of state was the only person in the Georgian leadership to be in touch with Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba. He [Shevardnadze] had received Ardzinba's consent on the introduction of our Georgian troops to Abkhazia. Sigua said that the conflict started on 14 August 1992, not between Georgian troops and the Abkhaz but between Georgian police and the Abkhaz. [passage omitted]

Kitovani said that he thought it was a mistake to appoint Vardiko Nadibaidze, a Russia-orientated man, as defense minister. According to Kitovani, Nadibaidze would never be able to create a Georgian army, without which it would be impossible to win back Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

Sigua also said that it was not tactful to demand the resignation of the head of state until Shevardnadze delivered a report on his activities to parliament.

Both Sigua and Kitovani said that they had been against Georgia's joining the CIS. Georgia should have looked toward the West. This would not have precluded it from having good-neighborly relations with Russia.

At the end of the news conference, Sigua said that the time would come when he sheds light on many things that were now kept secret. He believes that it is still too early to do it.

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Estonia

Commissioner Appointed for Paldiski Nuclear Base

WS1008140894 Tallinn ETA in English 1207 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From 10 August RAHVA HAAL, p 1 ; "News Bulletin" No. 153/94]

[Text] Government appointed its previous special representative in Paldiski Juri Tikk commissary of Paldiski nuclear object. A commission headed by minister Arvo Niitenberg was given an order to present its proposals and additional bills of judicial acts that would secure commissioner's work in Paldiski and the legal and financial side of the operation.

The appointment of the commissioner of nuclear object in Paldiski was determined by the contract about the liquidation of nuclear reactors in Paldiski, signed by Estonia and Russia on July 30. "I knew I was put up as a candidate for the post among others," said Tikk, "still government's decision came a little unexpected to me."

Tikk did not want to discuss his plans in detail. "It is too early to divide the bear's skin," he said. Tikk hopes to complete and present to the government's commission a detailed plan in a week. In Tikk's opinion the most important and urgent task at moment is starting with the dismantling. These should start quite soon as a group of specialists in the field of dismantling nuclear reactors arrived from Russia, Severodvinsk in Paldiski yesterday. According to the commandant of Paldiski Colonel Raul Luks there were 25 of them.

Juri Tikk, Vice Chancellor of the Foreign Ministry Raul Malk, and Raul Luks meet with the administration of Paldiski training center today in order to discuss the preparations for dismantling the nuclear reactors.

According to Tikk the leader of the object, Admiral Aleksandr Olhovikov did not agree the question of dismantling with Estonian representatives before a commissioner was appointed. "I will go and get acquainted with him again, this time as a commissioner already," smiled Tikk. He assured that Russian militaries' prolongation and hiding behind the appointment of a commissioner was brought on because of their lack of knowledge and confusion as "they hoped to get a bigger piece of the pie with the contract".

Tikk considers the contract to be very important because it determines realistic dates among other things: "Now there is a document from which to proceed. Earlier there was nothing concrete in my work."

"There is nothing harmful for us in the contract. It is a normal contract which leaves Estonia certain freedoms," added Tikk. "Of course, if I were a politician who took only the interests of a party into consideration, I too would find something to criticize perhaps," said Tikk. As an official who is aware of the problems in Paldiski he did not find anything to criticize in the contract.

Exercises To Check Readiness for Dismantling Reactors

LD1008192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] On Friday exercises will be held in Paldiski, Estonia to check the readiness of two nuclear reactors for dismantling. The reactors belong to a Russian submarine training center. The plans were disclosed to Interfax on Wednesday by the commandant of Paldiski Colonel Raul Luks.

The decision was made by a joint conference of the training center command, dismantling experts from Severodvinsk who arrived on Tuesday and officials from the Estonian government, foreign and defense ministries.

After the exercises to which Estonian observers were invited a report on the degree of readiness will be made and the dismantling schedule developed on its basis.

The Russian side promised to inform the Estonians about the beginning of the operation seven days in advance, Luks said.

Under the bilateral agreement signed in Moscow on July 30 the reactors should be dismantled by the end of September 1995. The center itself is to be handed to Estonia on August 15, according to the commandant.

Luks said the equipment for dismantling the first reactor has arrived in Estonia. As soon as actual operations begin everything necessary for the second one will be brought in. The rods will be taken away by railway. The Estonian side has built a 7.5 kilometer line to the reactors for the purpose.

Defense Forces To Control Training Center

WS1108111794 Tallinn ETA in English 0754 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From 11 August PAEVALEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 154/94]

[Text] Thursday, August 11—The guard of Estonian Defence Forces takes the building of Russian naval forces training center in Paldiski under their control tomorrow. According to the commandant of Paldiski Colonel Raul Luks the Russian seamen can move around in the training center on the basis of lists given to the Estonian side and only on the permission from Estonia.

Raul Luks assured that there is enough equipment and machinery in Paldiski to dismantle one nuclear reactor. According to Luks equipment for dismantling the other reactor will be sent to Paldiski when the details of the first reactor are being deported.

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The commissioner in Paldiski Juri Tikk assured that in principle the Russian side has all the necessary equipment for starting the dismantling of the reactor. Only five containers for deporting the fuel of the second reactor are still missing. Juri Tikk was sure that the containers will arrive when there is a need for them.

Juri Tikk, Vice Chancellor to the Foreign Ministry Raul Malk, the deputy director of Rescue office Kalev Timberg and Raul Luks met with the leader of training center in Paldiski Rear Admiral Aleksandr Olhovikov and his deputy, Captain of the First Rank Boris Borissov.

Colonel Luks said that the technical questions connected with the dismantling of reactors were discussed yesterday. Problems raised by both sides were handled and it was agreed that these will be solved in the course of work.

The starting date of the dismantling works is not clear yet. The Russian side will organize control training at the object this Friday. A taskforce from Estonian side will take part in the event. The training will be controlled by a special brigade of ten people from Russia, whose task is to find out if Russian side is ready for dismantling works. An act that determines the order of carrying out the works and timetable will be composed as a result of the control training.

Russian side had assured that Estonia will be informed about the beginning of work seven days ahead. Colonel Luks added that the meeting was constructive and useful for both sides. The next meeting is planned for the next week.

Boris Borissov claimed to the representatives of Estonian authorities on August 3 that the dismantling could start from August 15-20. A group of 25 specialists who are going to direct the dismantling of the reactors arrived in Paldiski on Tuesday. Estonian frontier guards did not know how the 25 Russian specialists came to Estonia.

The deputy leader of revenue office Viktor Hansen said that Russian specialists could come to Estonia as civil persons. Hansen assured that no military group of 25 people has arrived to Estonia by railway, road or harbor frontier stations. On Tuesday morning a Russian warplane from Kaliningrad landed in Mari, it had six passengers on board one of whom had military documents. They had a permission to come to Estonia. Raul Luks claimed that he had seen the Russian specialists in Paldiski yesterday morning. "They were all young men and wore plain clothes," assured Luks. The colonel of Paldiski was not aware of the fact how and when the Russian specialists came to Estonia.

According to the act of Estonian Government about 35 specialists who will be engaged in dismantling the reactors are allowed to Estonia.

Joint Statement Signed With Kazakhstan

MM1008121194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Lembit Annus: "Estonia and Kazakhstan Find Common Interests"]

[Text] Tallinn—Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Estonia was reminiscent of a sprint in terms of its unexpected, short-lived nature.

But the "hasty" method of preparing for a visit at this level did not affect the results. A joint communique was signed based on the results of the presidents' talks in Tallinn Monday [8 August], in which the sides stated their intention of holding regular talks and consultations at all possible levels, including the highest.

The main provisions of the joint statement involve speeding up the preparation of a trade agreement; resolving the issue of transit shipments via Russian territory; creating preconditions for mutual investment and joint enterprises; customs cooperation, as well as cooperation in the sphere of culture, science, and education; exchanging diplomatic missions and preparing a consular convention; reciprocity of legal acts; and cooperation in preparing international documents.

Border Disputes Hamper Talks With Russian Local Officials

WS1108111994 Tallinn BNS in English 1659 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 10, BNS—A meeting between representatives from the Estonian Varska parish administration, Russian Krupa and Kulje village governments, and the Setu Congress scheduled for today didn't take place, because the Russian border guard didn't allow the Russian officials to cross the border.

The Estonian border guard had agreed to allow the Russian delegation to come to Varska in southeast Estonia, but the Russian side hadn't been informed about the planned crossing of the border, Juri Vaidla, a leader of the Setu Congress, told BNS.

Officials from Estonian and Russian border villages have since spring attempted to get together on five occasions. A meeting took place at the end of July on Russian territory, but three attempts failed altogether.

The temporary administrative border between Estonia and Russia divides a historically integral region and creates a situation where family members can't get together, visit the graves of their relatives, or even go shopping for bread, Vaidla said. A similar situation in Narva on Estonia's northeast border was solved by a bilateral agreement.

Today's meeting was to discuss the procedure of crossing the border and the documents needed for this, action in emergency situations, medical aid, and other issues.

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Members of the Setu Congress have turned for help to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Human Rights Commission and its chairman, Timo Lahelma, as well as the former Population Minister Peeter Olesk.

Ants Paju, a representative of the Estonian president's round-table conference on ethnic minorities, promised to arrange Lahelma's visit to Setumaa, Vaidla told BNS. The next meeting between Estonian and Russian local governments was set for Aug. 17.

Latvia

LNNK Approves New Government Composition

WS1108112894 Tallinn BNS in English 0926 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Riga, Aug 11, BNS—The Latvian Saeima Latvian National Independence Movement (LNNK) parliament faction confirmed Wednesday the final version of the new Cabinet and the government declaration.

The two documents will be submitted to President Guntis Ulmanis and Parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs for consideration.

The parliament could decide on the new Cabinet next week, said LNNK prime ministerial candidate Andrejs Krastins.

The LNNK omitted the post of state property minister saying state property related problems have already been settled.

The new government is unlikely to make any attempts to investigate into the record of the previous administration because other state institutions are designed for the purpose, Krastins said.

LNNK faction head Alexander Kirsteins is to become the new foreign minister, thus, the Parliament Foreign Affairs' Committee may have to look for a new chairman.

The faction has not decided yet on the candidacy for the post of parliament deputy chairman because Krastins, who filled it so far, will have to leave it. The LNNK, however, hopes that the new deputy chairman will represent its faction, said Krastins.

Krastins failed to announce the Cabinet composition during the press conference but, according to information at Baltic News Service disposal, the chairs are divided as follows:

Foreign Minister: Alexander Kirsteins (LNNK),
Economics Minister: Dzintars Kalnins,
Finance Minister: Edmunds Krastins,
Justice Minister: Aiva Zarina,
Defense Minister: Anita Stankevica,
Culture Minister: Ramona Umblija,
Interior Minister: Imants Bekess,
Agriculture Minister: Gundars Berzins (Farmers' Union),
Welfare Minister: Maris Budovskis (LNNK),
Environmental Protection and Regional Development Minister: Inese Vaidere,
Communication Minister: Aristids Lambergs (LNNK),
State Reform Minister: Viesturs Pauls Karnups (LNNK),
Education and Culture Minister: Elmars Grens.

State ministers:

Privatization State Minister: Roberts Zile,
State Income State Minister: Guntis Grube,
Human Rights State Minister: Maris Vitols (Christian-Democrats Union).

The party belonging of ministers for whom it is not given in brackets is being still clarified.

Anita Stankevica, former Latvia's Way member, informed the faction Wednesday on her withdrawal from it.

WEU Official on Membership in European Security System

WS1108113594 Tallinn BNS in English 1659 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Riga, Aug 10, BNS—The Russian troops withdrawn, Latvia will be able to enter the European security system as full-fledged member, Western European Union [WEU] Assembly President Dudley Smith told reporters Wednesday in Riga.

Smith praised Latvia its "enormous progress" in building a democratic society since the regain of its independence in 1991. This will allow the Baltic country to neutralize all problems of Russian military retirees on its soil. In addition, Smith pledged his organization would also help Latvia to tackle the problems. Smith also appreciated the "statesmanly approach" of the Latvian government toward the negotiations with Russia on troop withdrawal by 31 August.

The Russian troops gone, Latvia should form not large but mobile military forces, able to integrate into the European security system, Smith said.

The Latvian Defense Ministry representatives should participate in the work of the WEU Assembly planning group to further Latvia's ties with the European security structures.

Commenting on the problems of destroyal of former Soviet weapons in Eastern Europe, Smith said the problem will be discussed in a WEU conference in October. Latvian parliament Defense and Interior Affairs Committee Chairman Ivars Silars has been invited to join the conference.

In Smith's opinion, the remaining former Soviet armament in Europe is often without any strategic importance

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and could hardly be assessed as concentration of arsenal. The WEU plans to draft recommendations for Latvia's defense forces armament and provision system.

Smith toured Latvia this week on an introduction visit. He met with Parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Foreign Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Martins Virsis and parliament committee heads. On Wednesday, he also had talks with Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis.

The WEU is a European defense structure founded in 1955 by Belgium, France, Italy, Great Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Federative Republic of Germany. Latvia gained the group's associate partnership in May, 1994.

Lithuania

Brazauskas, Nazarbayev Urge Creation of Eurasian Union

LD1008180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 153 Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas supported Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea of creating a Eurasian union.

He stated during a joint press conference in Vilnius that he appreciated Nazarbayev's efforts to create such a union which might broaden economic cooperation between states.

Asked about Lithuania's role in it, Brazauskas said, however, that "Lithuania's membership in it is out of the question."

Speaking about his talks with the Kazakh president and the meeting between the Lithuanian and Kazakh delegations, Brazauskas announced that the main accent was put on ways of strengthening the two countries' state systems, promoting the reform and broadening cooperation.

Nazarbayev said that the current visit was expected to facilitate the conclusion of agreements on cooperation, which, he said, is very important because Lithuania is Kazakhstan's biggest Baltic partner. He also noted that the trade turnover between the two countries was rather modest. In 1993, the trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Lithuania amounted to just about $30, he said.

During Nazarbayev's visit, the two presidents signed a Lithuanian-Kazakh declaration, an agreement on assistance in tackling legal issues and civil, family-related and criminal cases, and prolonged the agreement on trade and cooperation for 1994.

On Wednesday [10 August], Nazarbayev visited the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda and signed the agreement on the utilization of this port for the needs of Kazakh imports and exports.

On the same day Nazarbayev arrived in Kiev where he is to meet with President Kuchma.

"Following the election of a new president in Ukraine, it is important to confirm the succession of bilateral relations and discuss future cooperation between the two countries," the Kazakh president's press secretary Nurlan Danenov told Interfax.

Nuclear Power Station's Unit Back in Operation

LD1008132394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The second turbine of the first reactor at the Ignalina nuclear power station was put back into operation at about 1100 hours [0800 GMT] this morning. Around midday the nuclear power station was reconnected with the Lithuanian power engineering system.

Ksaveras Juskauskas, head of the control room service at the state enterprise Lithuanian Power Engineering System told the Baltic News Service correspondent that at the beginning the reactor would operate at a minimum capacity of 250 MW and that in the afternoon it will reach its regular capacity of 750 MW. According to him, the second turbine was put back into operation because last night it was shut down by an automated protection device.

Lately, while the second power unit has been undergoing maintenance, the first power unit was operating with only one turbine.

According to Juskauskas, Lithuania stopped buying power this morning because the lack of power has been compensated by the Elektrenai thermal power station operating with the capacity of 600 MW and the Kruonis pump storage power station.

Yesterday Lithuania bought about 8,000,000 kW from its neighbors, although the demand was more than 20,000,000 kW.

As reported last night the faulty turbine generator was shut down by the automated protection system. The cause of the fault has not yet been determined. According to Juskauskas the break down occurred only in the generator and not in the entire power unit.

The level of radiation in the power station and beyond its territory after the shutdown has not changed and does not differ from normal.

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